

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES
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AUTHORITY

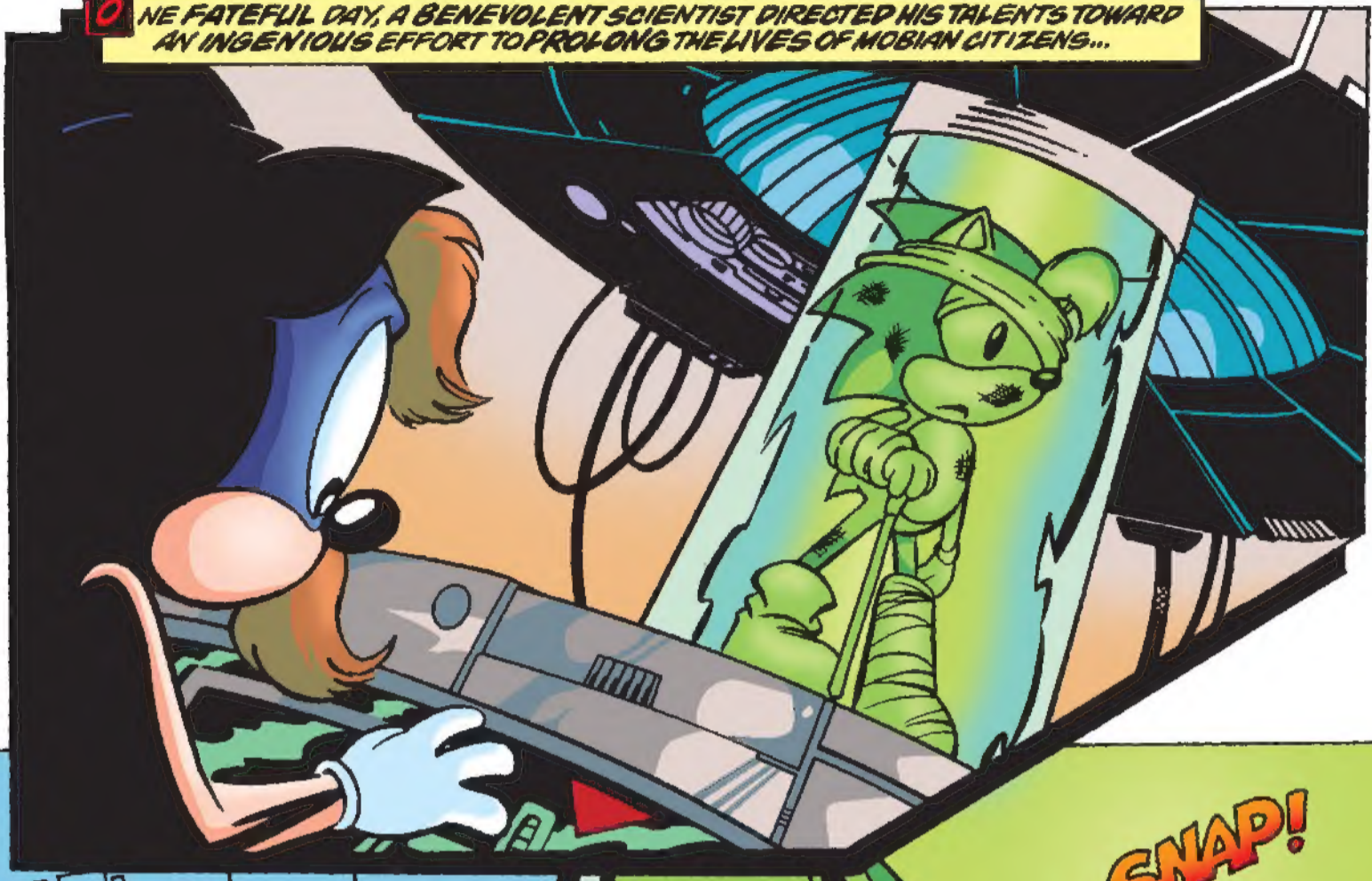
SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG™



SPAZ
HARUD

O NE FATEFUL DAY, A BENEVOLENT SCIENTIST DIRECTED HIS TALENTS TOWARD AN INGENUOUS EFFORT TO PROLONG THE LIVES OF MOBIAN CITIZENS...

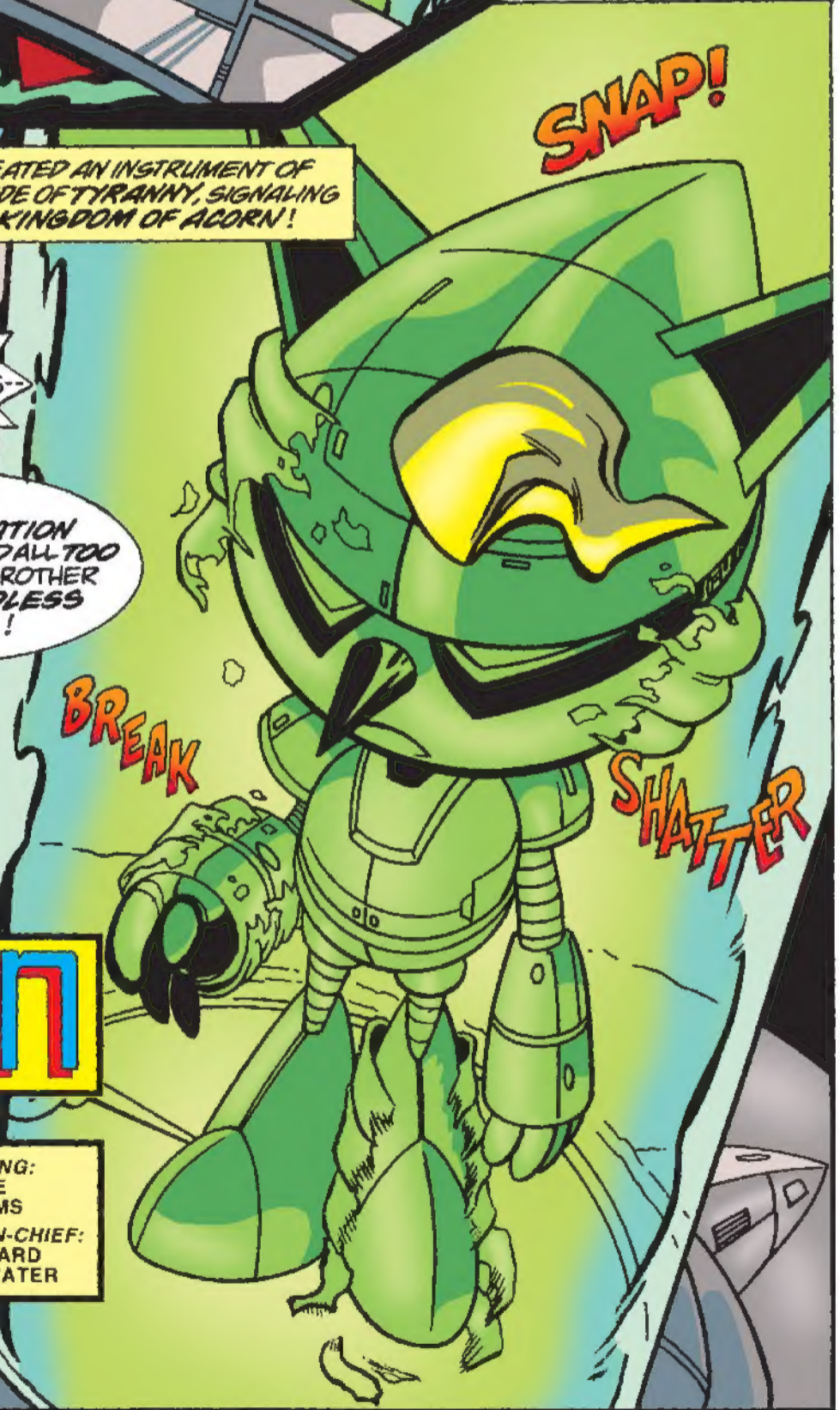


... AND IN DOING SO, INADVERTENTLY CREATED AN INSTRUMENT OF DOMINATION, USED AS PART OF A SWEEPING TIDE OF TYRANNY, SIGNALING THE DOWNFALL OF PLANET MOBIUS AND ITS KINGDOM OF ACORN!



FOR THE LOVE OF MOBIUS-- NO!!!

THE ROBOTICIZATION PROCESS WORKED ALL TOO WELL--NOW MY BROTHER IS JUST A MINDLESS MACHINE!

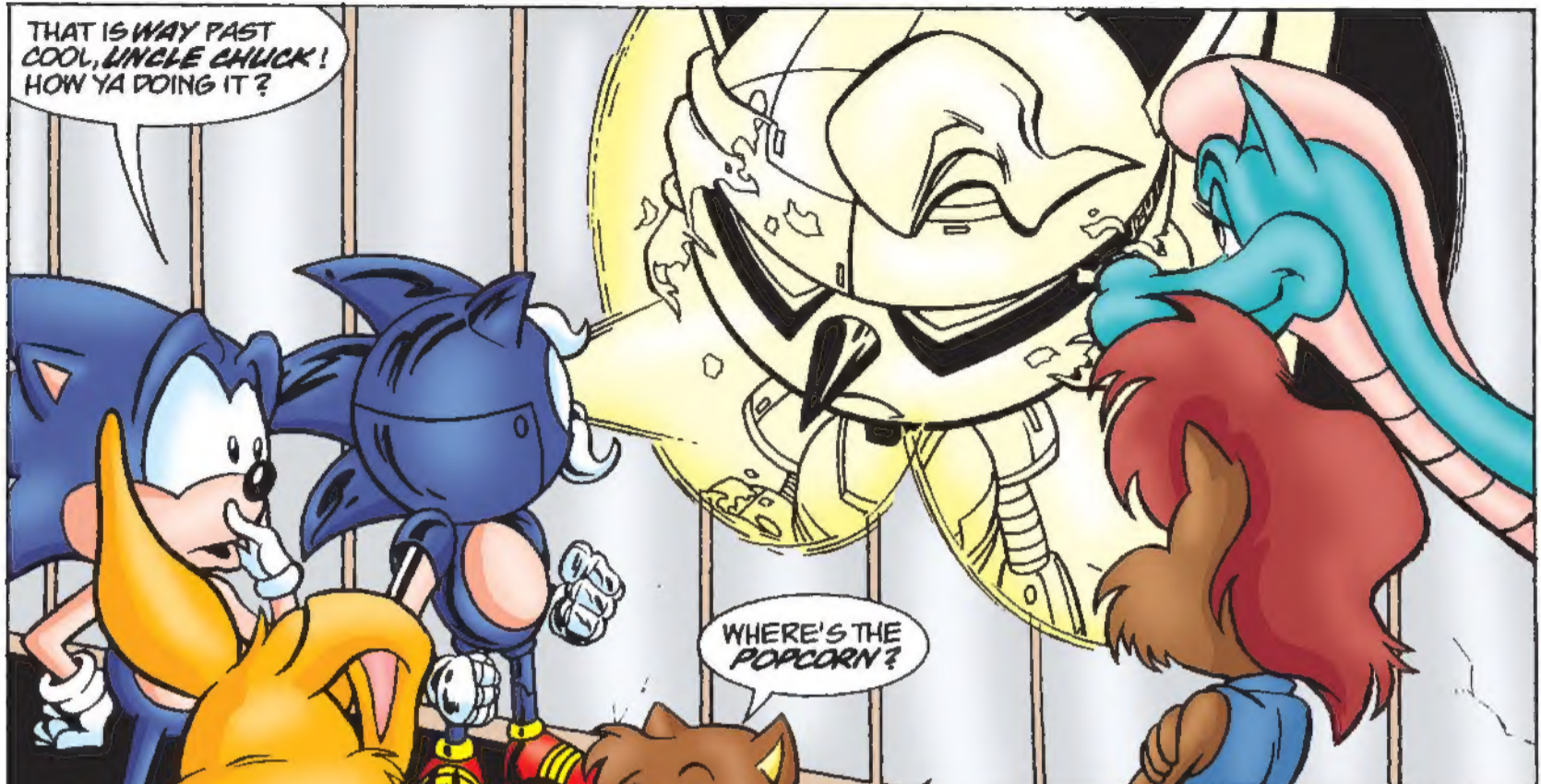


A COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

PART ONE

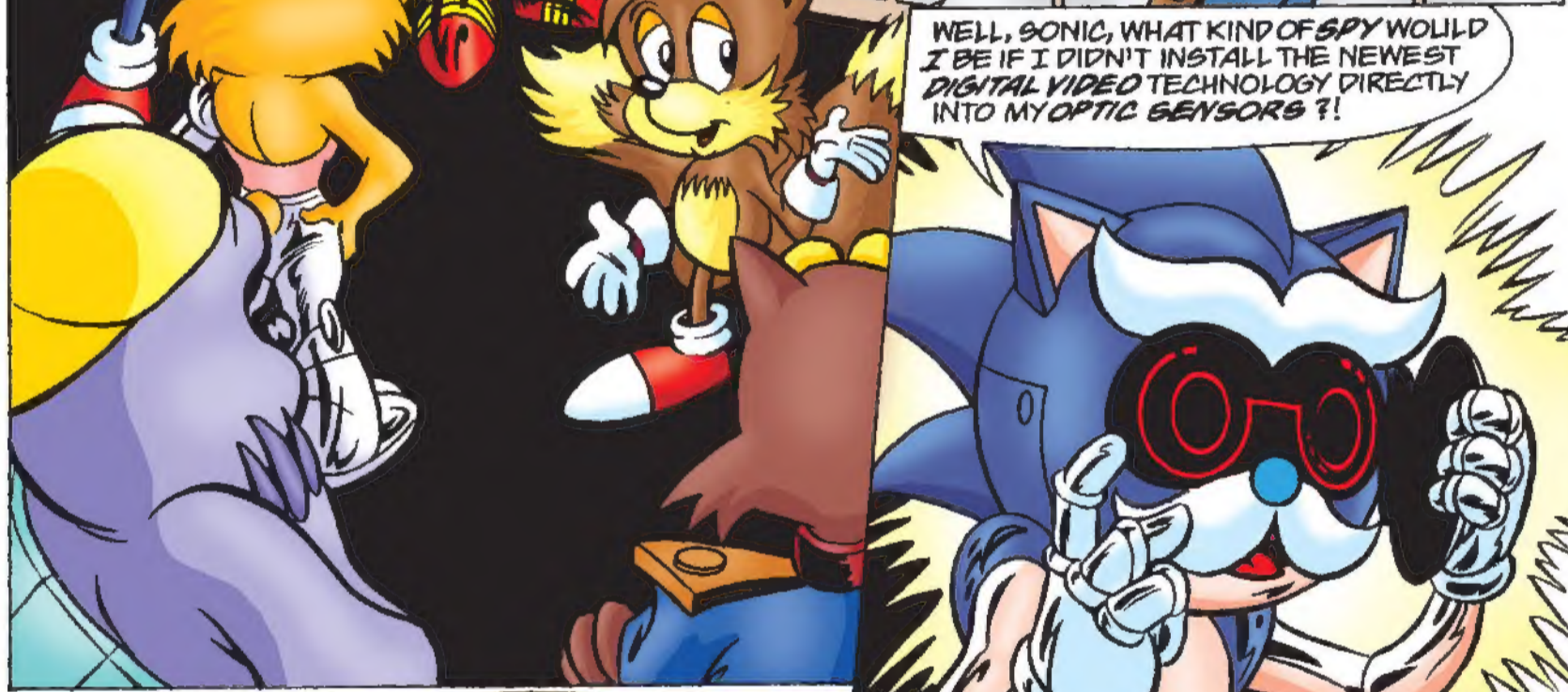
SCRIPT: KEN PENDERS & KENT TAYLOR	PENCILS: NELSON ORTEGA	INKS: BRIAN THOMAS	LETTERING: VICKIE WILLIAMS
COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN	EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE	MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

THAT IS WAY PAST COOL, UNCLE CHUCK! HOW YA DOING IT?



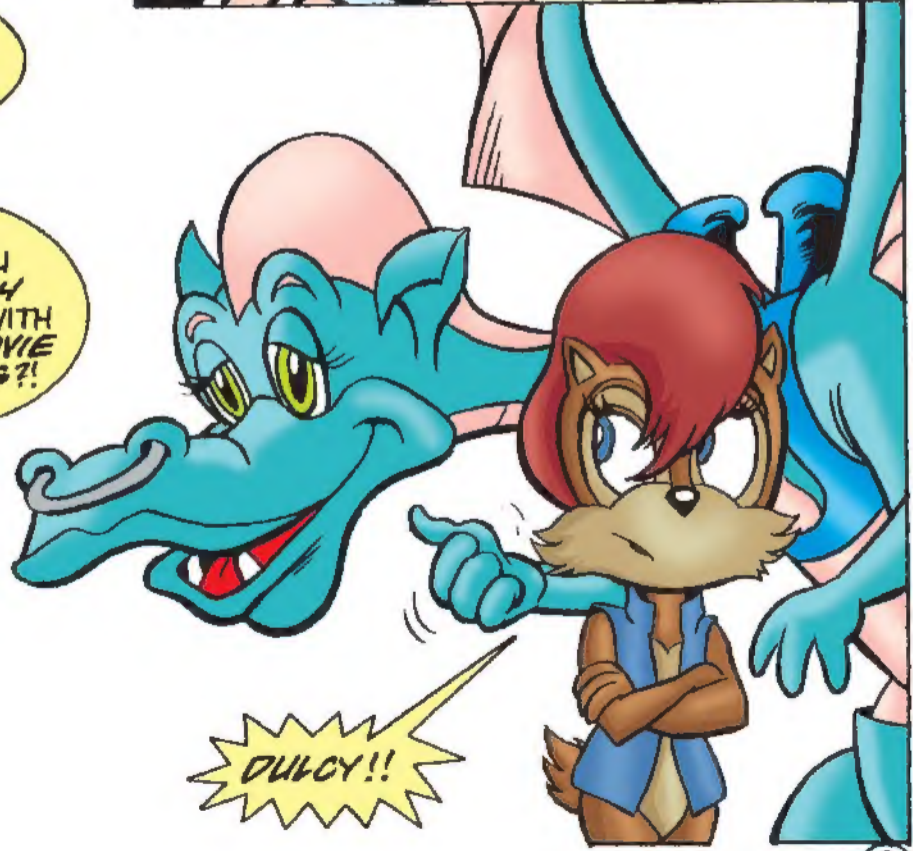
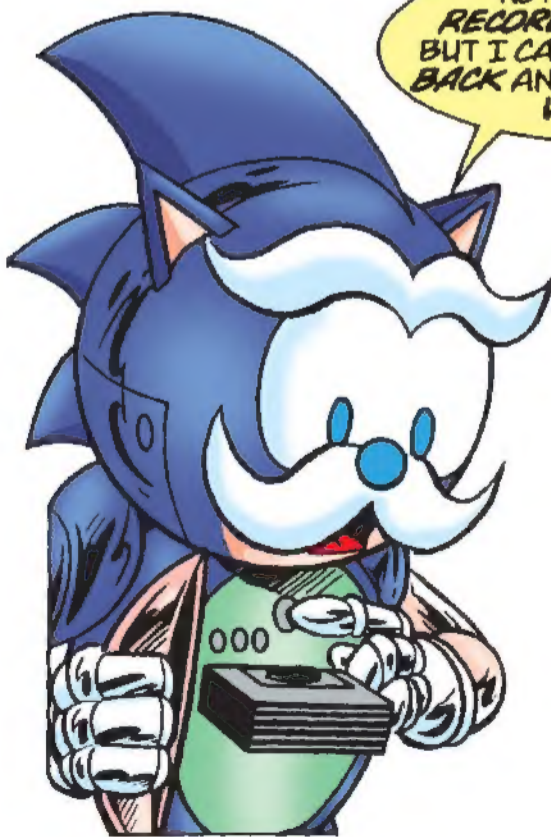
WHERE'S THE POPCORN?

WELL, SONIC, WHAT KIND OF SPY WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T INSTALL THE NEWEST DIGITAL VIDEO TECHNOLOGY DIRECTLY INTO MY OPTIC SENSORS?!



NOT ONLY CAN I RECORD WHAT I SEE, BUT I CAN ALSO PLAY BACK ANY PRE-RECORDED VIDEO!

YEAH, BUT DO YOU HAVE A DISH ANTENNAE WITH A HUNDRED MOVIE STATIONS?!



DULCY!!

NOT QUITE. HOWEVER--

--RETRIEVED FROM ROBOTROPOLIS BY MY SPY NETWORK, THIS VIDEO IS A BY-PRODUCT OF A SECRET SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM USED IN THE FORMER ROYAL PALACE--

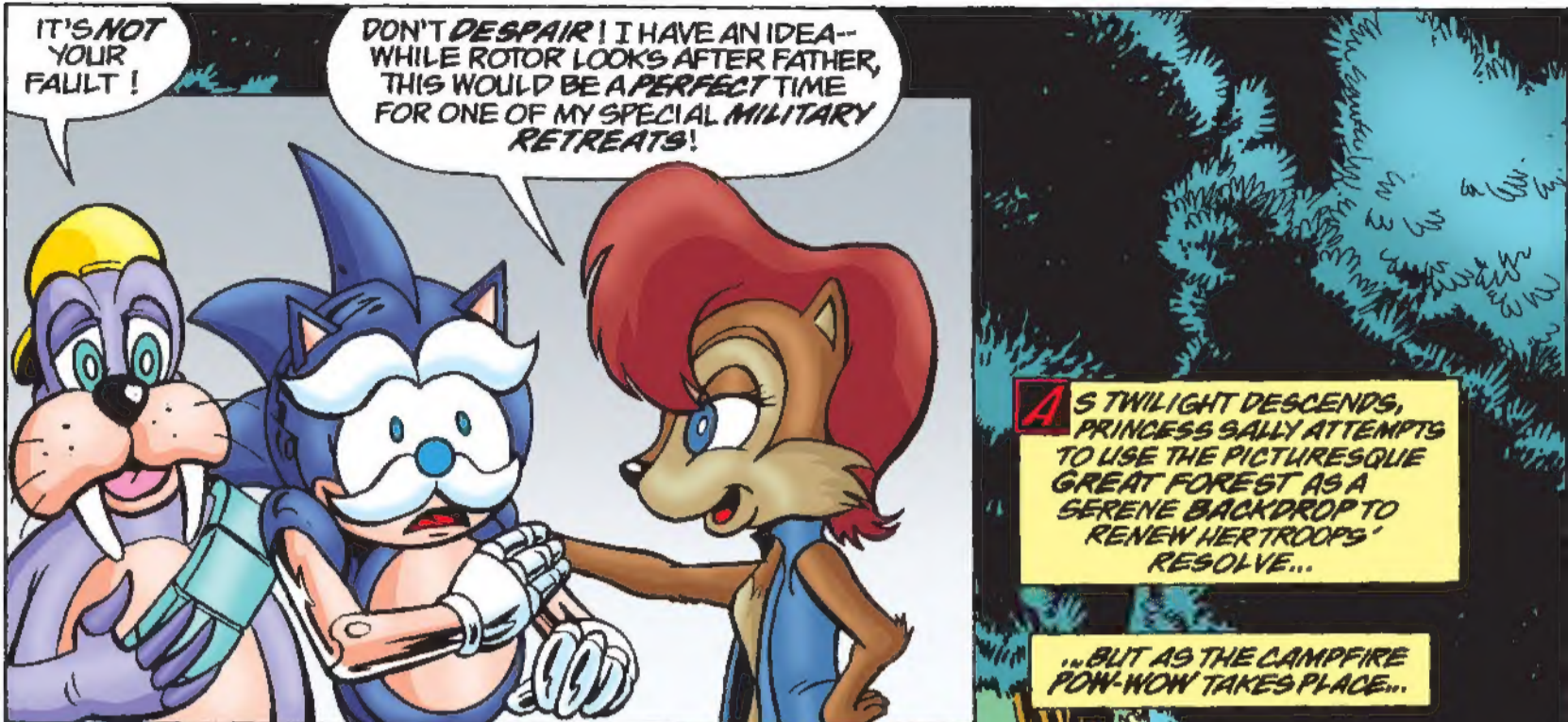
"--AND PROVIDES PROOF THAT **ROBOTNIK**, IN HIS FORMER IDENTITY AS **WARLORD JULIAN**, SABOTAGED MY ORIGINAL ROBOTICIZER!"

"IT WAS HIS INTERVENTION THAT TRANSFORMED A TOOL OF MEDICINE INTO A WEAPON OF WAR."

AND EXCEPT FOR A FEW TIMES WHEN WE WERE LUCKY*, I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO DEROBOTICIZE ALL THOSE POOR SOULS!

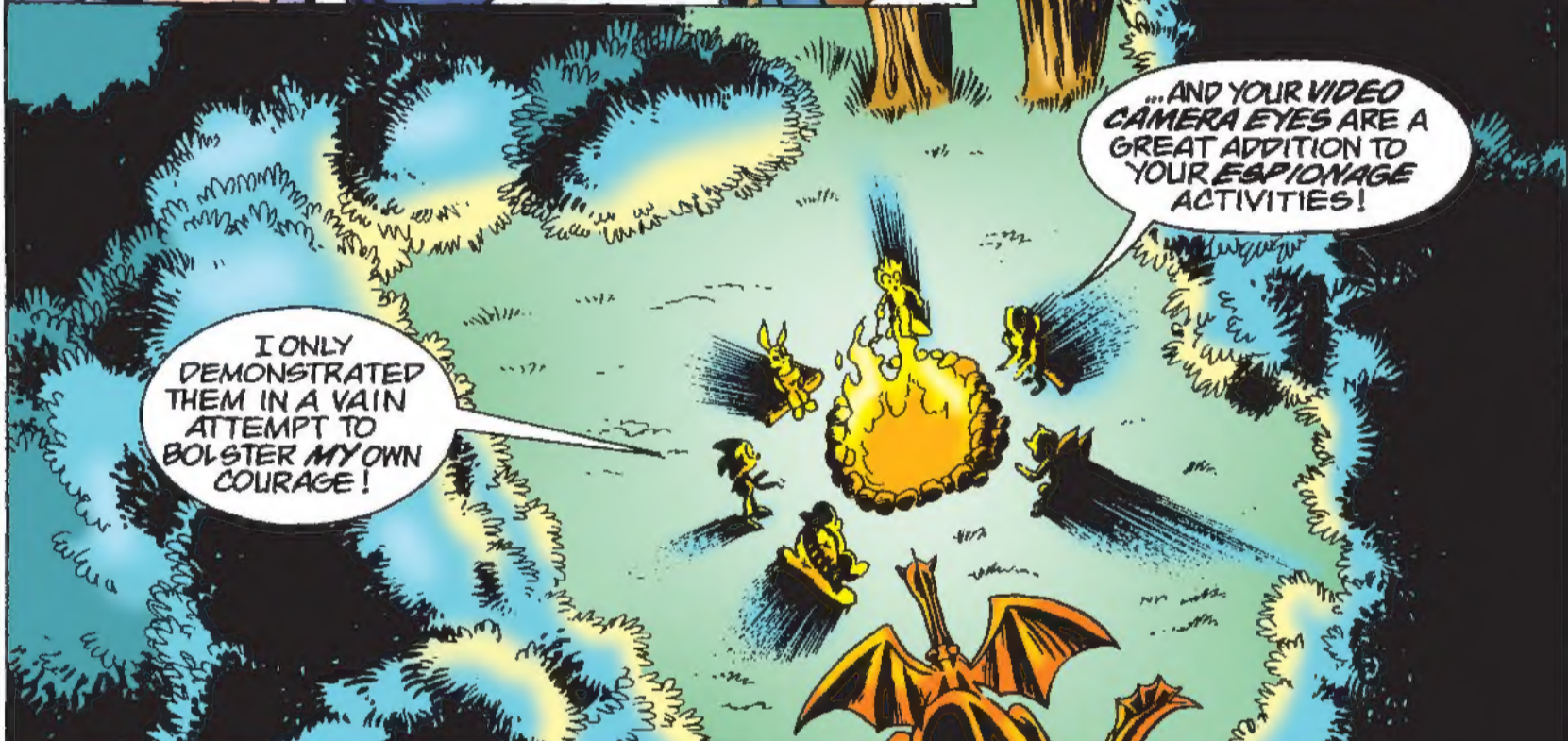
SOME HUMANITARIAN I AM!

* CHECK OUT SONIC #37-EDITOR.



AS TWILIGHT DESCENDS, PRINCESS SALLY ATTEMPTS TO USE THE PICTURESQUE GREAT FOREST AS A SERENE BACKDROP TO RENEW HER TROOPS' RESOLVE...

...BUT AS THE CAMPFIRE POW-WOW TAKES PLACE...



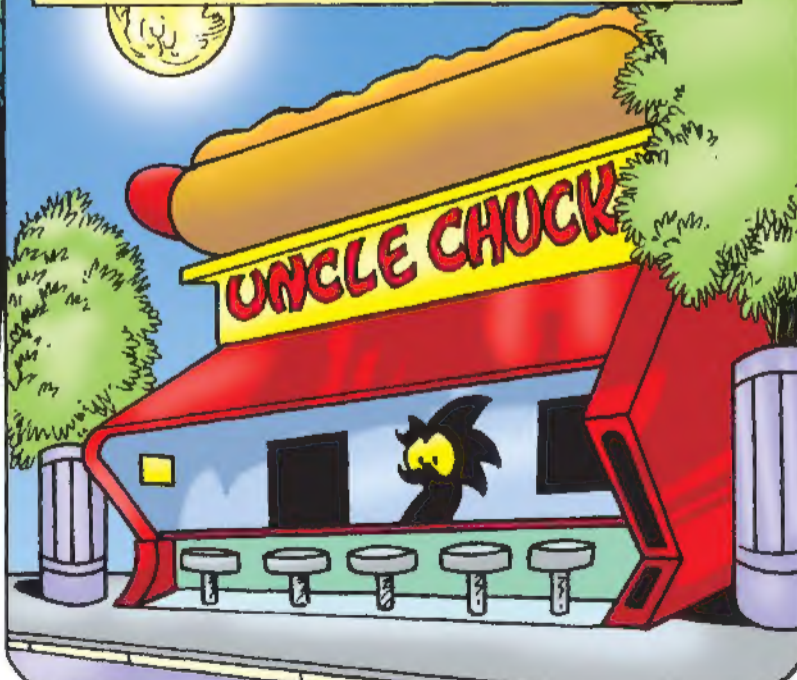
...AND YOUR VIDEO CAMERA EYES ARE A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES!

I ONLY DEMONSTRATED THEM IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER MY OWN COURAGE!



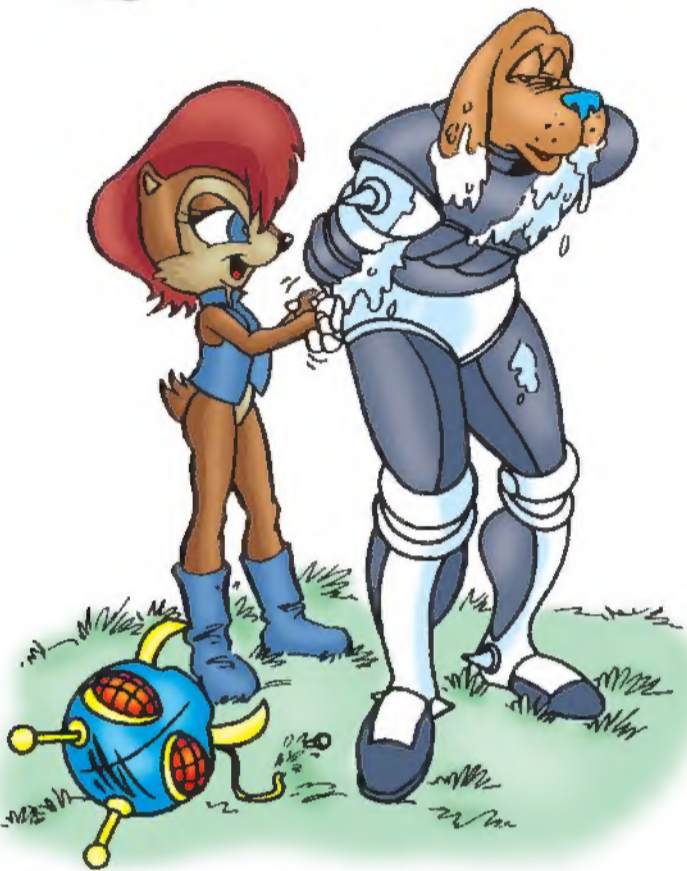
THE TRUTH IS, I'M JUST ROBOTNIK'S PAWN! HE KNEW MY GUILT WOULD FORCE ME TO RESIGN MY POSITION AS THE KINGDOM'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR!

"SO I SUPPRESSED MY REMORSE BY TRANSFORMING FROM SIR CHARLES, INVENTOR, TO UNCLE CHUCK, CHILI-DOG PROPRIETOR!"

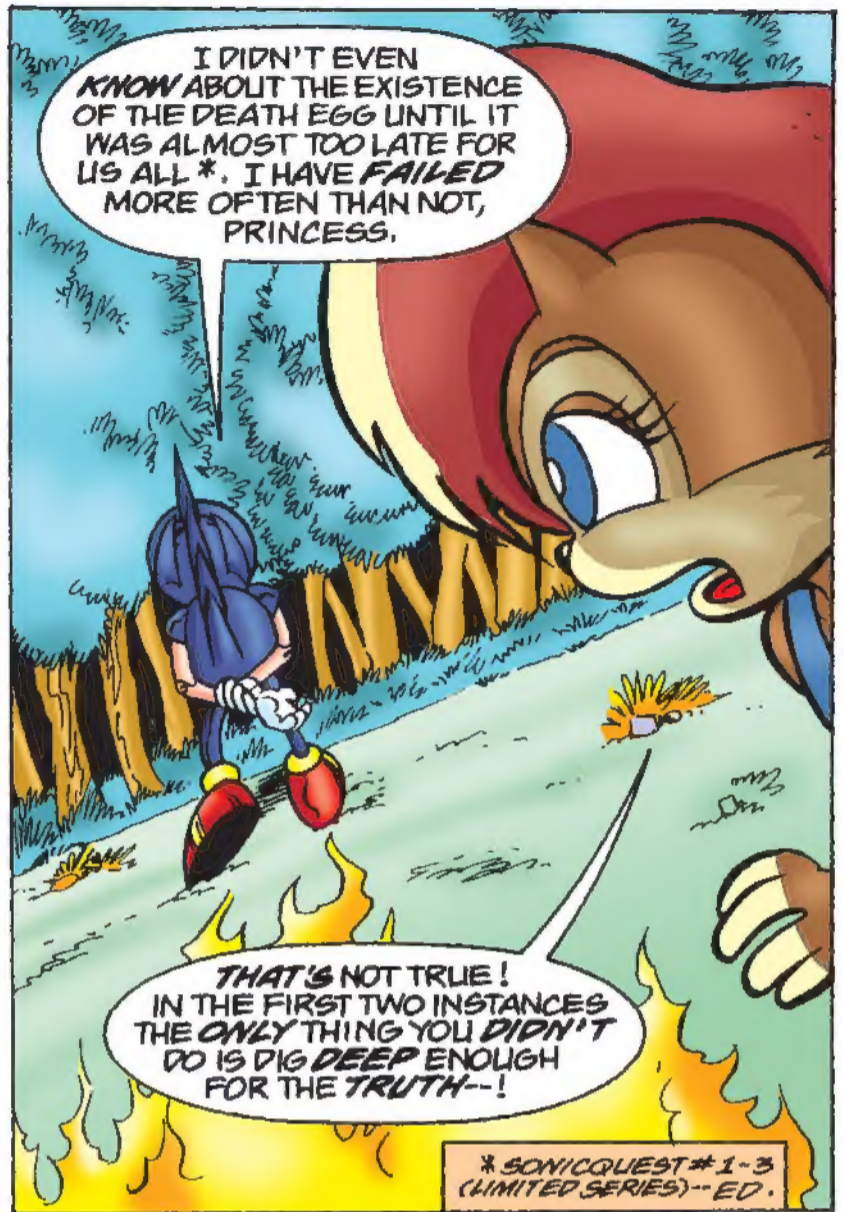




STILL--
 OUR DISCOVERY
 THAT ONE OF OUR OWN AGENTS,
SLEUTH DOGGY DOG, IS
 NOW A CONVICTED TRAITOR*,
 IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
 MY SHORTCOMINGS!



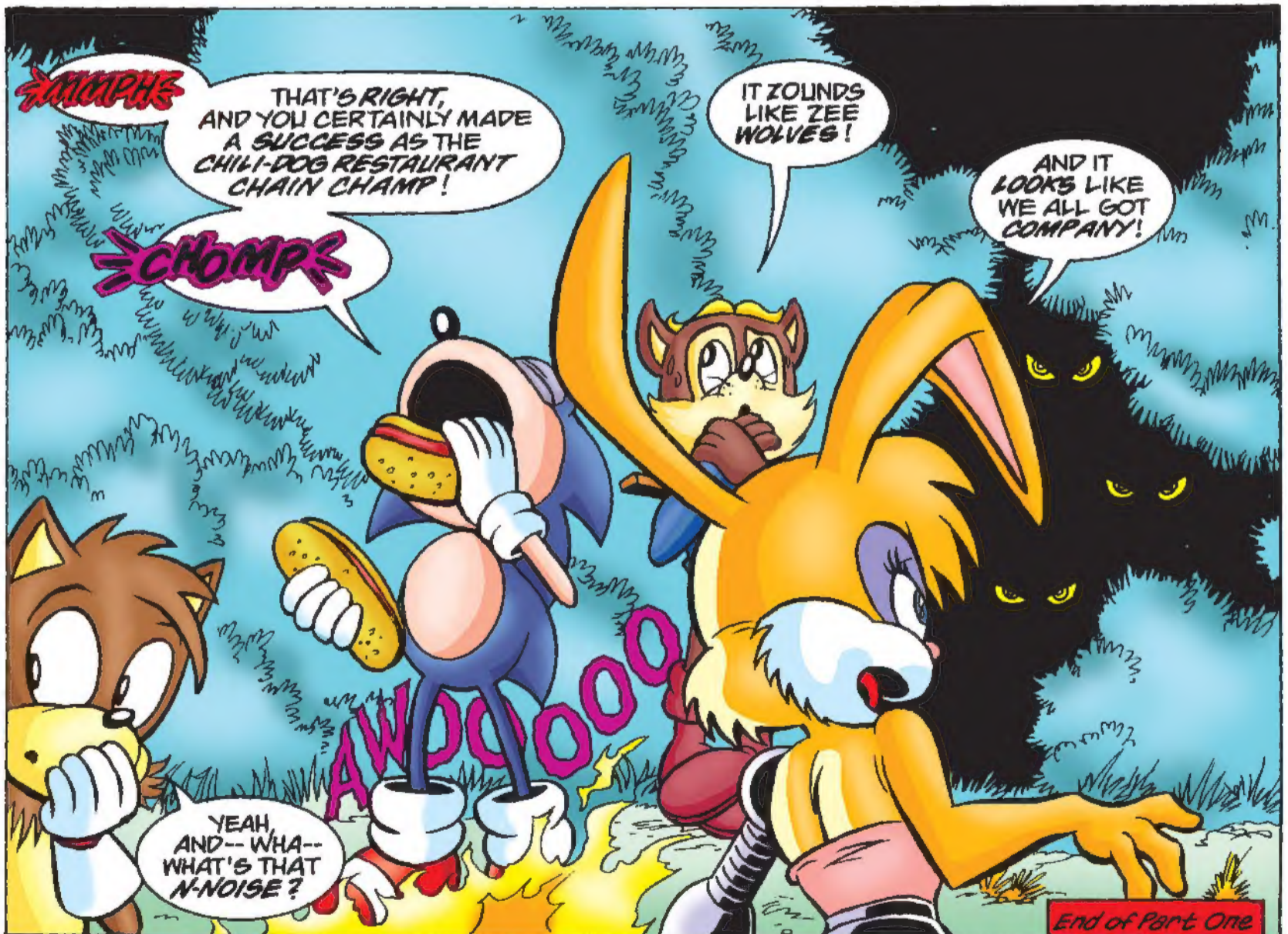
* SONIC #42 -- EDITOR AGAIN!



I DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE
 OF THE DEATH EGG UNTIL IT
 WAS ALMOST TOO LATE FOR
 US ALL*. I HAVE **FAILED**
 MORE OFTEN THAN NOT,
 PRINCESS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
 IN THE FIRST TWO INSTANCES
 THE **ONLY** THING YOU DIDN'T
 DO IS **DIG DEEP ENOUGH**
 FOR THE **TRUTH**--!

* SONIC QUEST # 1-3
 (LIMITED SERIES) -- ED.



THAT'S RIGHT,
 AND YOU CERTAINLY MADE
 A **SUCCESS** AS THE
CHILI-DOG RESTAURANT
CHAIN CHAMP!

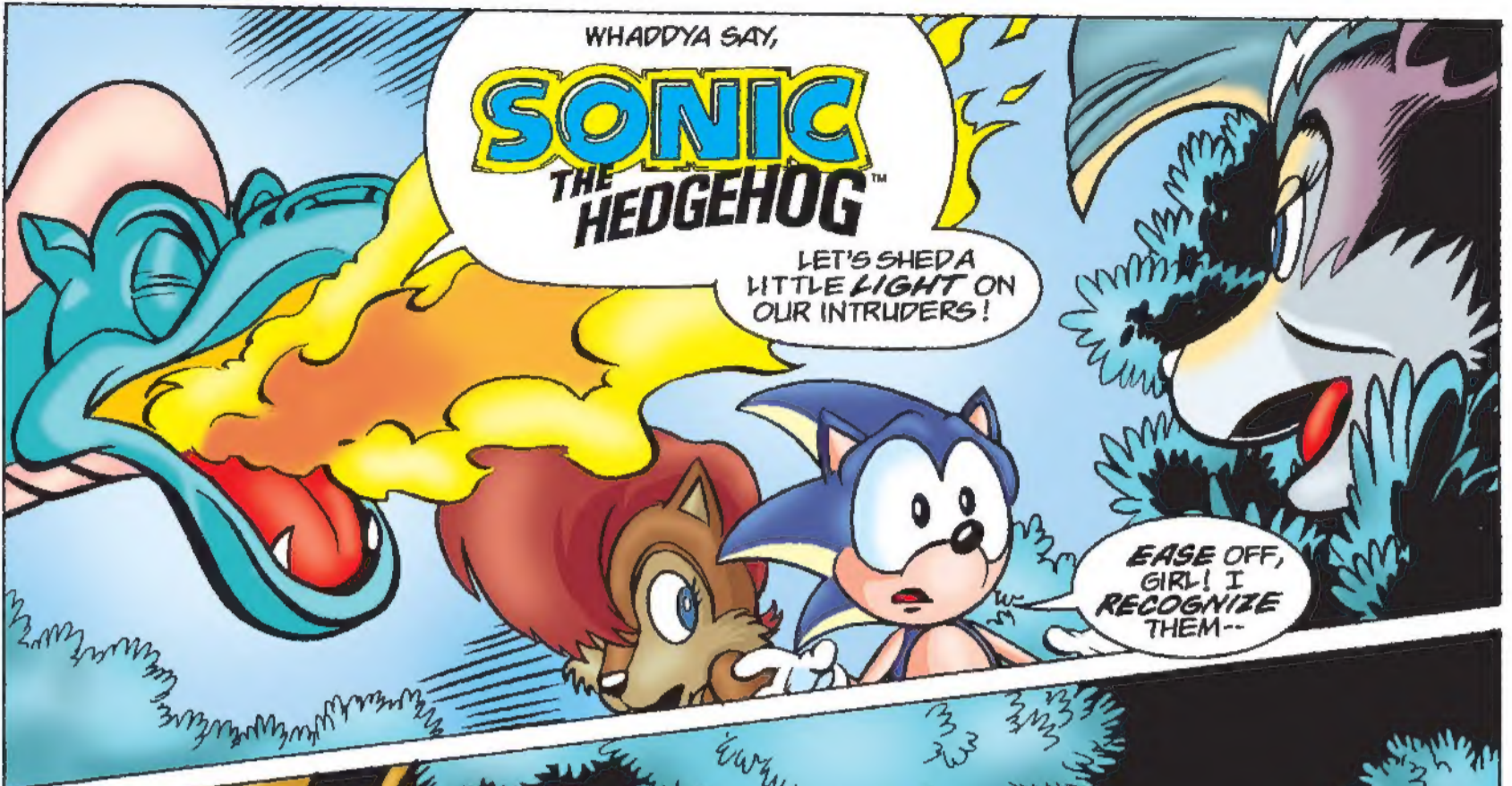
CHOMP

IT SOUNDS
 LIKE ZEE
WOLVES!

AND IT
LOOKS LIKE
 WE ALL GOT
COMPANY!

YEAH
 AND-- **WHA--**
 WHAT'S THAT
N-NOISE?

End of Part One



AS THE COVERT GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS DETAIL THEIR RECENT CONFLICT...

--AND ROBOTNIK'S BUILDING A NEW LINE OF SUPER 'BOTS!

I HOPE THEY'RE NOT WORSE THAN HIS COMBOTS!*

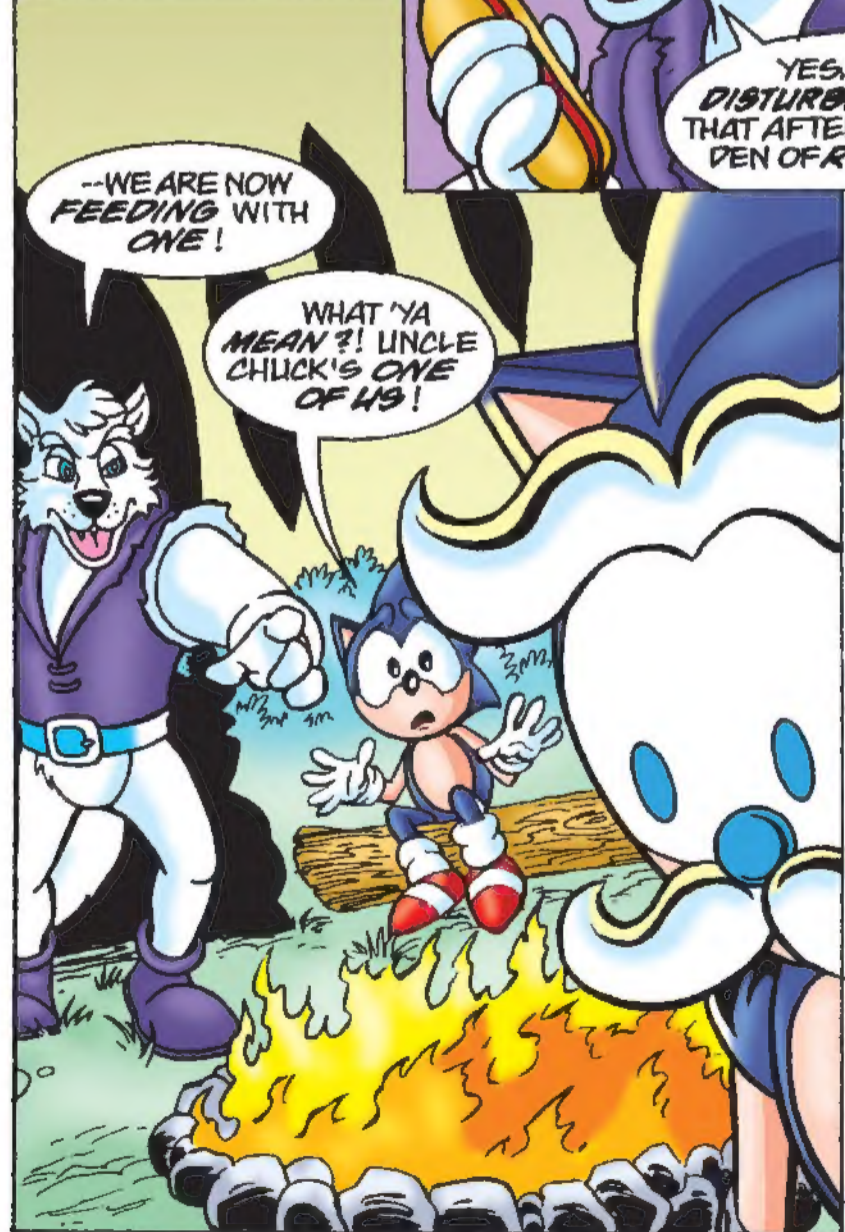


*LAST SEEN IN SONIC # 38-- EDITOR.



DRAGO, DON'T YA LIKE YER CHILI DO--ER--CHILI WIENER?

YES, WHAT'S DISTURBING ME IS THAT AFTER LEAVING A DEN OF ROBOTS--



--WE ARE NOW FEEDING WITH ONE!

WHAT YA MEAN?! UNCLE CHUCK'S ONE OF US!



REALLY? HOW DO YOU KNOW HE'S NOT ROBOTNIK'S SPY?

BECAUSE I SAY SO, TOUGH GUY!

--AND WHEN SONIC THE AMATEUR, SPEAKS, PEOPLE LISTEN!

NOW TAKE MY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE--CLIMB DOWN ON THE CAMPFIRE BEFORE YOU ATTRACT THE ENTIRE PLANET!

GEOFFREY ST. JOHN*, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

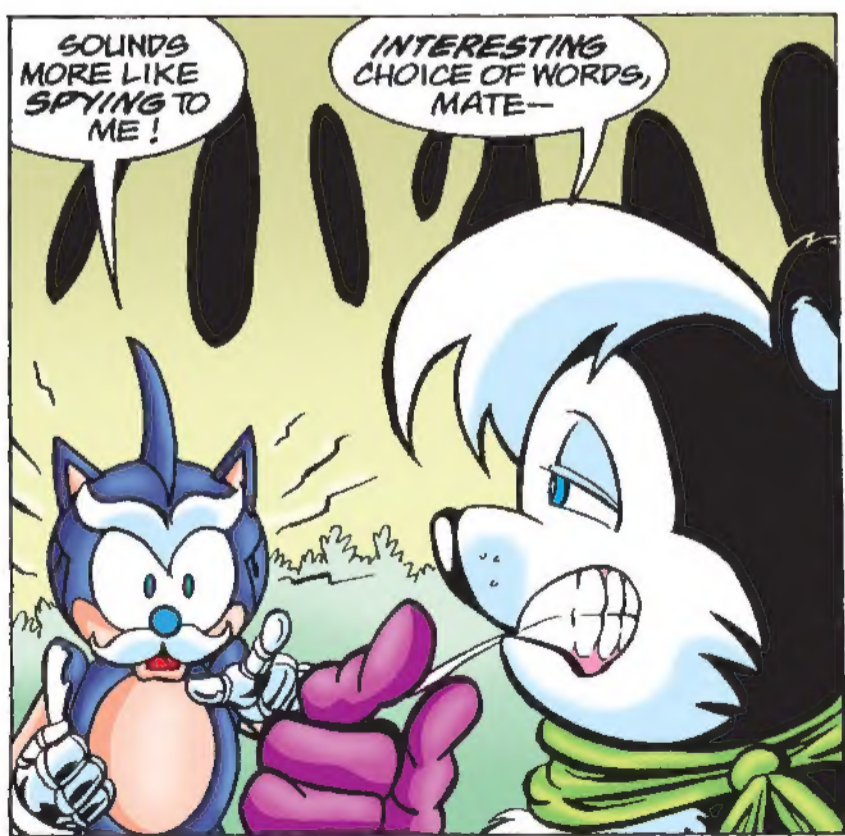


HELLO, LUV!



I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE BEEN DOING A BIT OF "SLEUTH-ING" BY "DOG-GEDLY FOLLOWING CHLUCKIE'S EVERY MOVE!

*REMEMBER HIM, GANG? HE FIRST APPEARED IN THE PRINCESS SALLY MINI-SERIES, AND HAS BEEN A PAIN IN SONIC'S SIDE SINCE ISSUE #31! -- EDITOR.



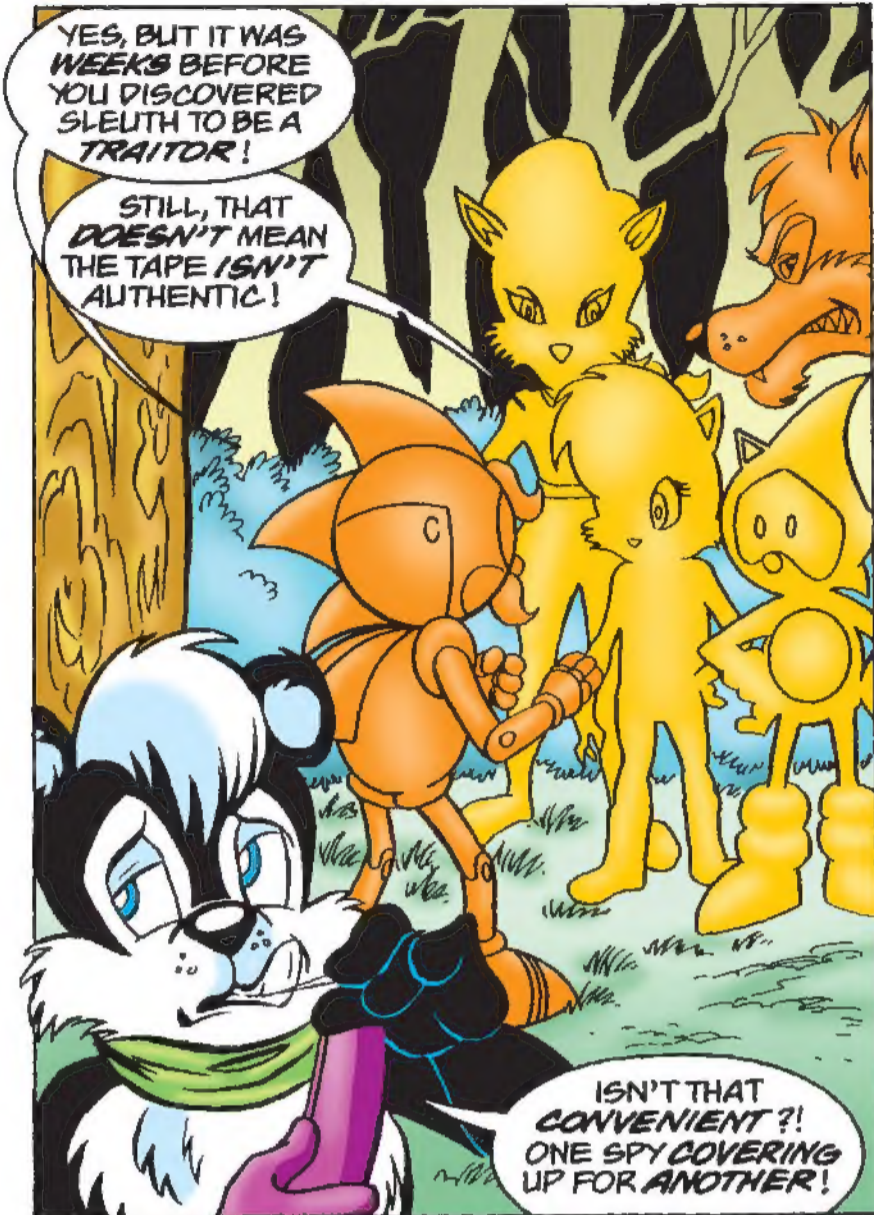
SOUNDS MORE LIKE SPYING TO ME!

INTERESTING CHOICE OF WORDS, MATE--



--ESPECIALLY SINCE THE AGENT WHO UNCOVERED YOUR VIDEO WAS ONE OF ROBOTNIK'S SPIES--SLEUTH DOGGY DOG!

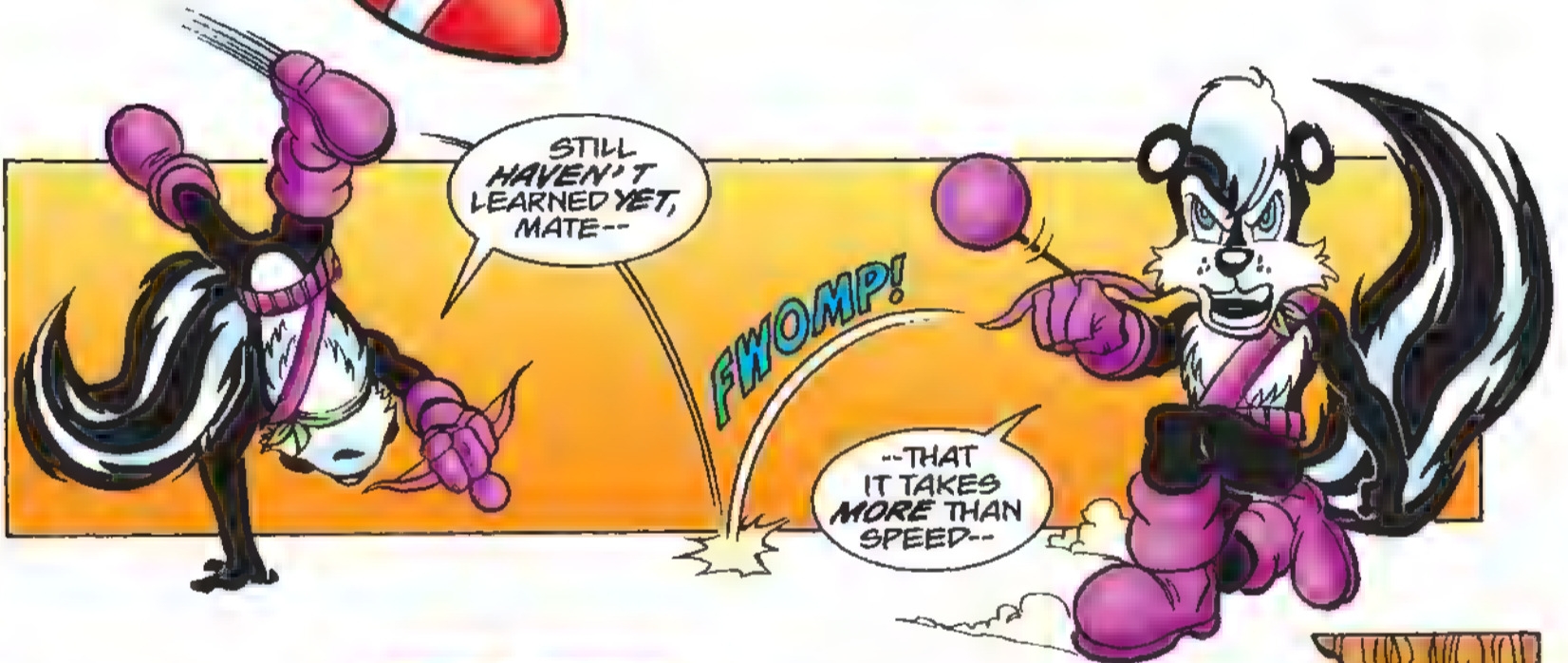
IS THIS TRUE?





WELL, YOUR HEAD'S GOING TO BE SLICKING DIRT!

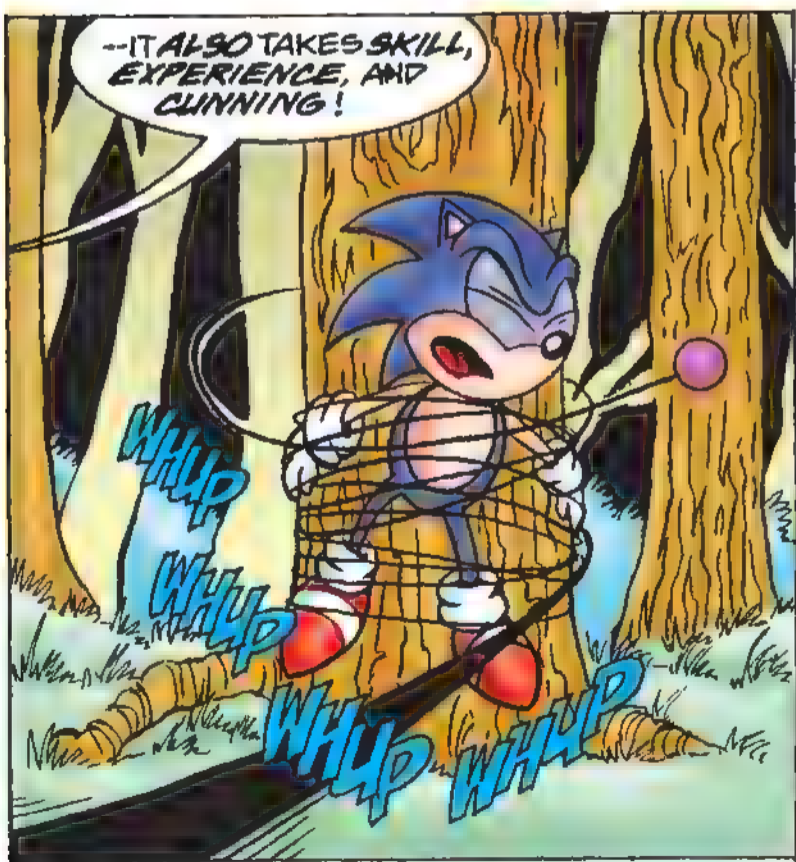
WHUFF



STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED YET, MATE--

FWOMP!

--THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN SPEED--



--IT ALSO TAKES SKILL, EXPERIENCE, AND CUNNING!



TOO BAD IT'S THE LAST LESSON YOU'LL EVER LEARN!

GEOFFREY!
NO!

End of Part Two

A COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

PART THREE

THAT EES ENOUGH!

THE 'EDGEHOG MAY BE ZEE IMBECILE LIKE YOU, BUT EVEN HE DOES NOT DESAIRVE DEATH!

THRACK!

SAVED AND INSULTED IN THE SAME SECOND-- NOW THAT'S SPEED!

WOW! WOTTA PUNCH!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, MATE? THIS DOESN'T INVOLVE YOU!

MY PROBLEM IS WITH YOU, L'PEW.

I WILL NO LONGER SUBPLIE MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOU!

YOU DAIRE TO SAY UNCLE CHUCK IS ZEE TRAITOR?

NO! IT IS YOU WHO ARE ZEE SPY!

HOW CAN THAT BE?



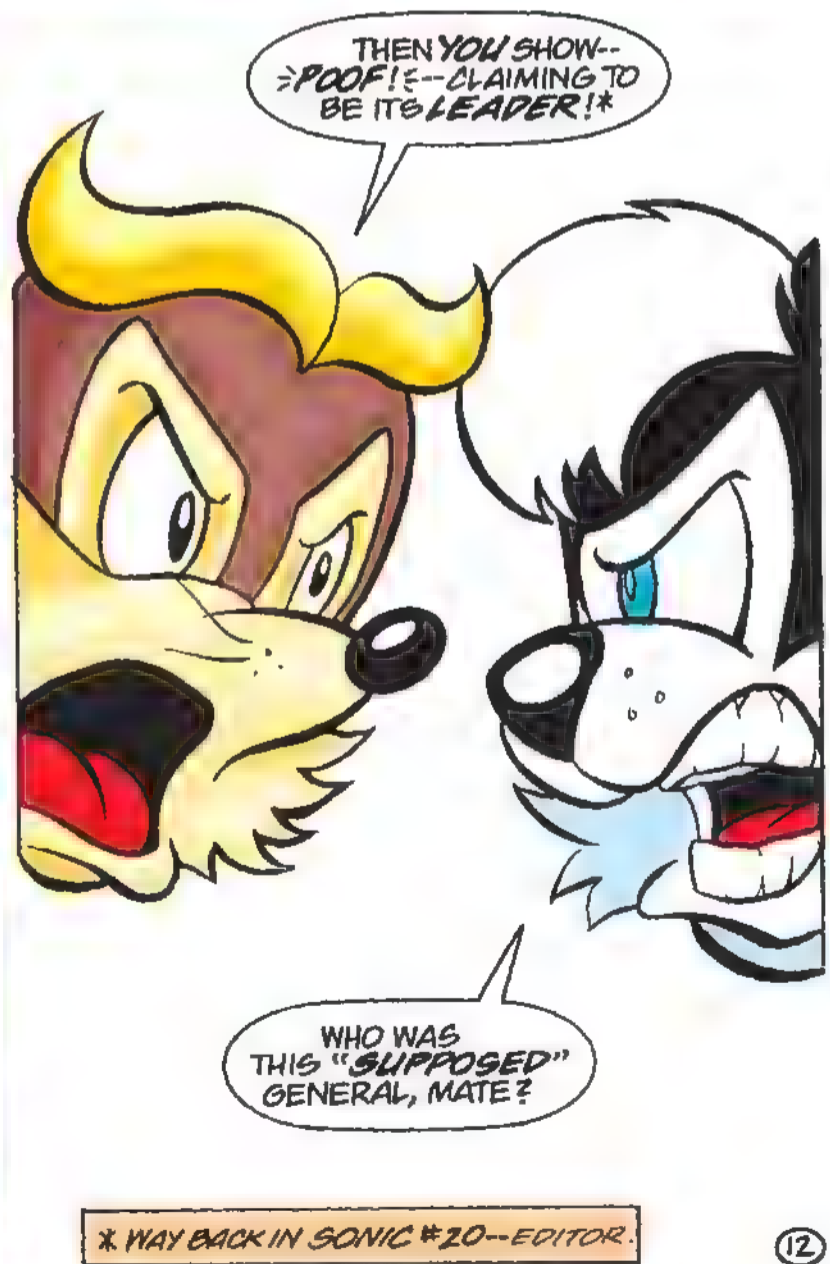
YEARS AGO, ZEE TOP GENERAL AND CLOSE FRIEND CONVINCED ZEE KING THAT ONE DAY HE MIGHT NEED ZEE REBEL UNDERGROUND...



I WAS '15 CADET-IN-TRAINING, PREPARING FOR ZEE DAY WHEN THE KINGDOM MIGHT BE ATTACKED FROM HER ENEMIES...



BEFORE THE UNDERGROUND WAS ESTABLISHED, HOWEVAIRE, THAT GENERAL BECAME ZEE CASUALTY OF ROBOTNIK'S WAR!



THEN YOU SHOW-- POOF!-- CLAIMING TO BE ITS LEADER!*

WHO WAS THIS "SUPPOSED" GENERAL, MATE?



EEE WAS MY FATHAIRE!

AND I SAY YOU HAVE **STOLEN** MY FAMILY HONOR!

I NEVER EVEN KNEW THE **BLOKE!**



EXACTLY! AND YOU DON'T KNOW ZEE KING, EITHER!

YOU ARE ZEE **IMPOSTAIRE!**



THAT'S ENOUGH!

BACK OFF AND WE'LL SORT THIS OUT!



I NEVER KNEW TWAN WASN'T A REAL SOLDIER!

YUP, LIKE US, HE WAS TOO **YOUNG!**

AS A **TRIBUTE** TO HIS FATHER, HE WEARS HIS **UNIFORM!**



AND, LIKE ALL OF US, HE ROSE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF WAR WITH **EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE!**

YOU MEAN HE **WASN'T** ALWAYS A **DOOFUS?**



NOPE! IN FACT, IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR, HE EVEN SAVED MUH LIFE!

KCHANG!



EVER THE DASHIN' HERO, HE BOWED BEFORE ROYALTY, OFFERING HIS HONOR AND COURAGE TO RESTORE THE REALM!



"IN TIME, HIS LOYALTY SPROUTED TO MISGLIDED LOVE..."



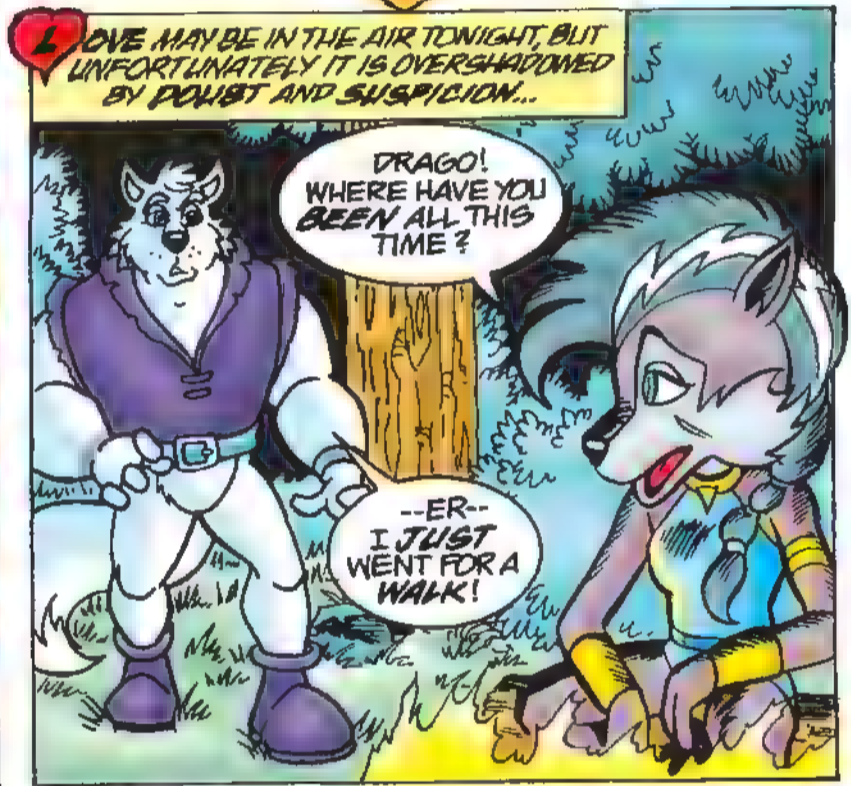
BUT WITHOUT THE LOVE HE CRAVED FROM SALLY OR HIS MISSING FATHER, HE KINDA-LOST HIS WAY!



GOSH, I NEVER KNEW!

MAYBE I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO HIM!

NO-- I'LL GO...





I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT I'M GOING TO BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU!

GOOD! YOU WATCH YOUR **RENEGADE**, AND I'LL WATCH **MINE**!



AND I SAY IT IS **YOU** WHO ARE **ZEE TRAITOR**!

YEAH, AND **MAYBE WE'LL BEAT THE TRUTH OUT OF YOU!**



STOP IT!

THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF **ACCUSATIONS** TODAY, BUT NOT ONE **SUBSTANTIATED**!

EVERYONE HERE HAS **PROVEN** THEIR **LOYALTY** AND TIME WILL TELL IF I'M **WRONG**!

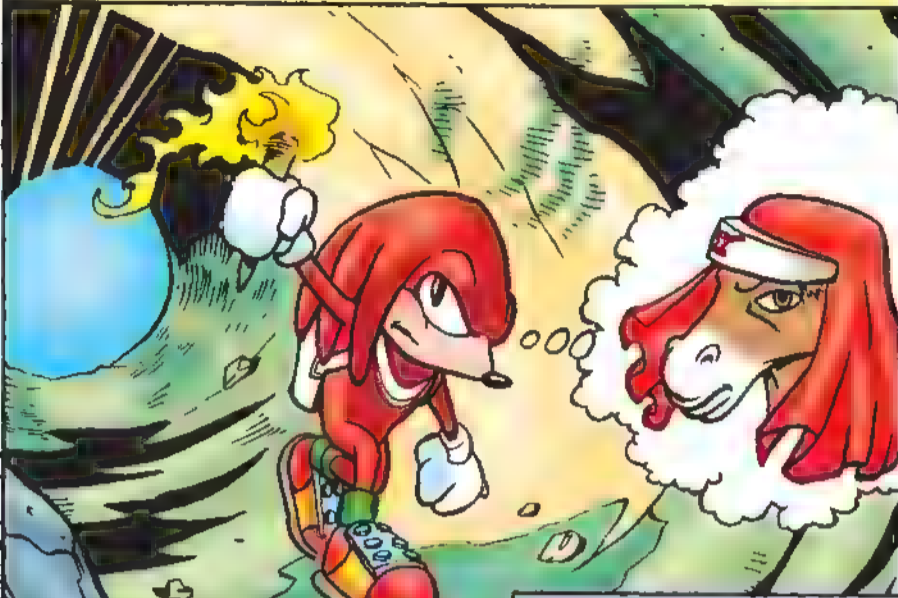


UNTIL THEN, LET'S ALL PUT OUR DIFFERENCES **ASIDE**!

IF THE **KING** AND THE **REALM** ARE EVER TO BE **SAVED**, WE MUST HOPE AND PRAY THAT **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA** IS **SUCCESSFUL** IN HIS **QUEST**!

AND KNUCKLES' QUEST CONCLUDES IN THIS VERY ISSUE!

ON A QUEST TO FIND KING ACORN'S MAGIC SWORD, DESTINY DECREED KNUCKLES WOULD MEET A PALADIN!

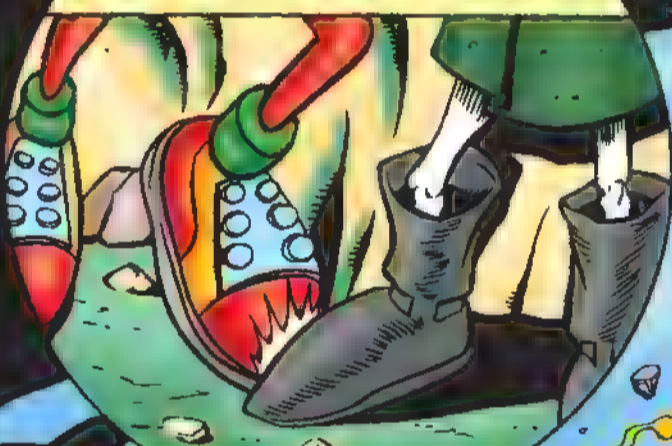


* KNUX MET SIR CONNERY LAST ISSUE! -- ED

UNRAVELING THE HOLY KNIGHT'S CRYPTIC CLUES, THE HEROIC ECHIDNA VAINLY SEARCHES THE NUMEROUS CAVERNS OF HIS FLOATING ISLAND HOME.



LIKE MANY HISTORIC EXPEDITIONS, THAT WHICH IS NOT FOUND BY FORTITUDE...



...CAN SOMETIMES BE DISCOVERED BY CIRCUMSTANCE...

KNUCKLES QUEST 4:

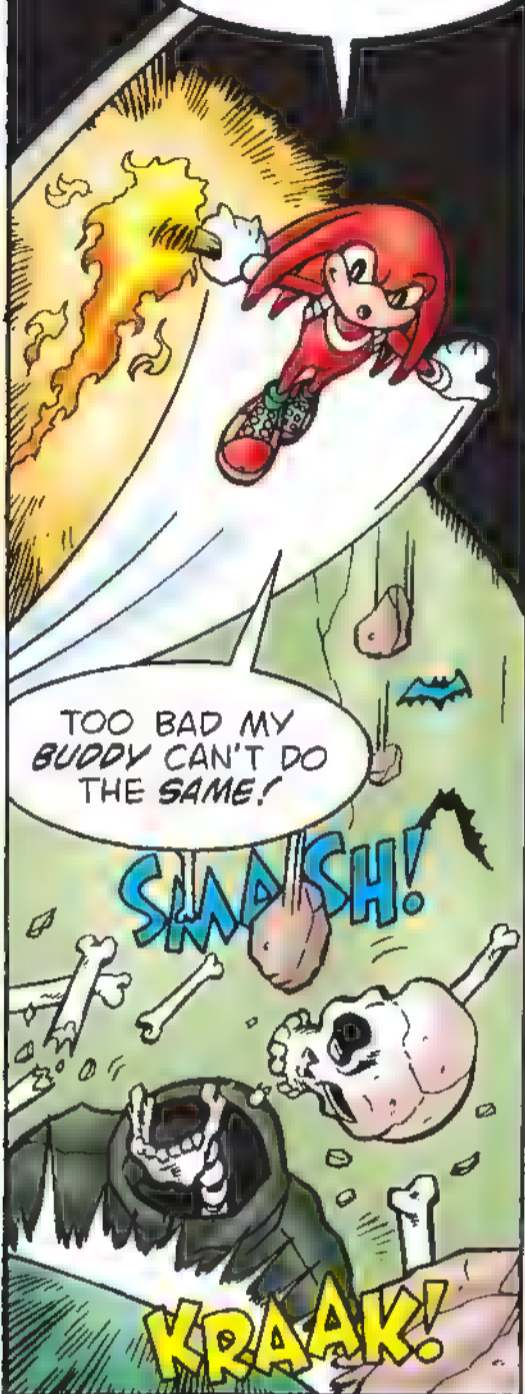
A GOAT, A RAVEN AND A SWAN SONG!

WHOA! GUESS I SHOULD HEED THOSE OLD WARNINGS--

"--WATCH THAT FIRST STEP AND "BEWARE OF SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET!"

KEN PENDERS & KENT TAYLOR • MANNY GALÁN • BRIAN THOMAS • M. EISMAN • BARRY GROSSMAN
WRITERS PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST

FORTUNATELY,
BEING ABLE TO
GLIDE ALLOWS ME
TO SLOW THE FALL!



TOO BAD MY
BUDDY CAN'T DO
THE SAME!

SMASH!

KRAAK!

UPON LANDING,
KNUCKLES BEGINS
TO EXPLORE THIS
LOWER CAVERN...



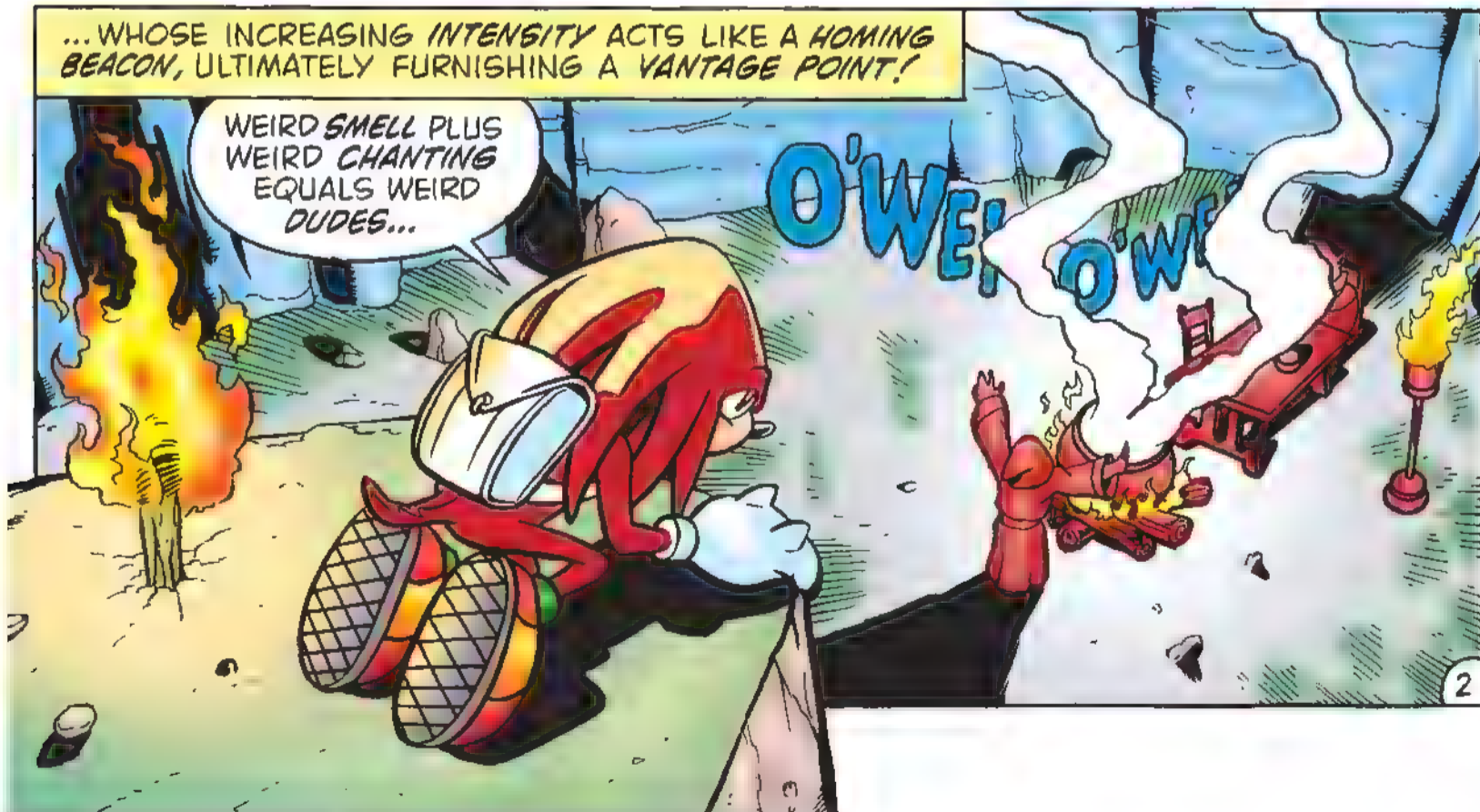
HMM -- THESE
MARKINGS LOOK
LIKE ANCIENT MYSTIC
RUNES -- MAYBE I'M
FINALLY ONTO
SOMETHING!

TRAVELING DOWN THE
DAMP, FUNGUS ENCRUSTED
CAVERN BANK, THE
ENTERPRISING ECHIDNA
ENCOUNTERS A HORRIFIC
STENCH ...



... WHOSE INCREASING INTENSITY ACTS LIKE A HOMING
BEACON, ULTIMATELY FURNISHING A VANTAGE POINT!

WEIRD SMELL PLUS
WEIRD CHANTING
EQUALS WEIRD
DUDES...



O'WEI O'WEI

... AND THOSE WEIRDOS LOOK LIKE THE WIZARD AND ALCHEMIST THE ANCIENT WALKERS WARNED ME ABOUT! *

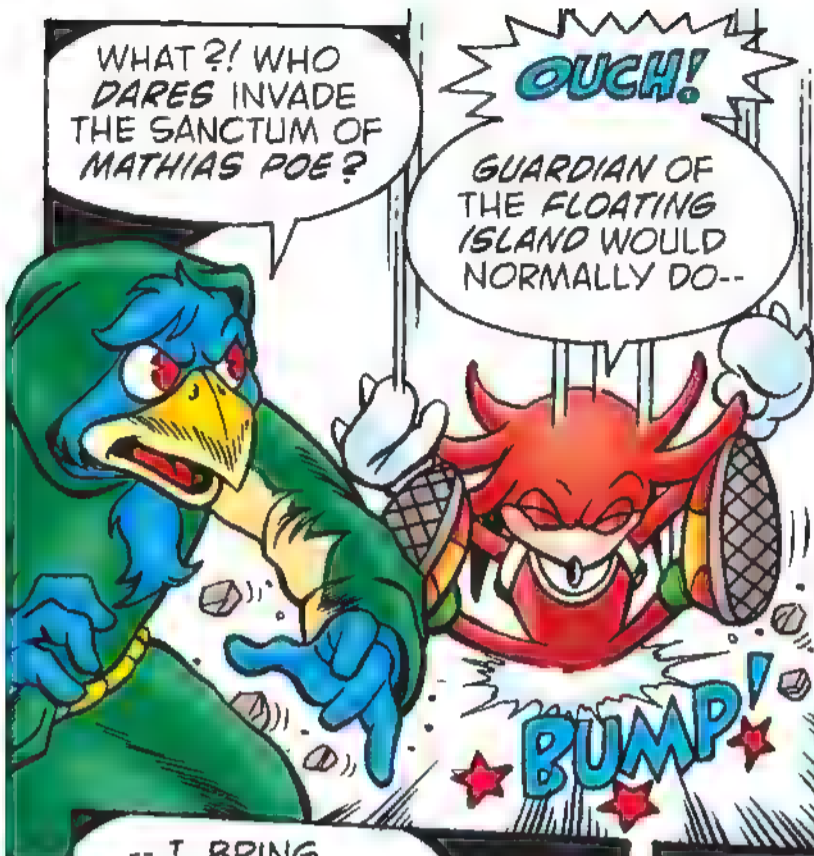
* BACK IN SONIC #42 -- ED

"BASED ON WHERE I FOUND THEM, I'LL BET THEY'RE ALSO-- MATHIAS POE AND DAMOCLES THE ELDER!"

THAT REFLECTION IS SHORT-LIVED, AS THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCE THAT BROUGHT KNUCKLES HERE ALSO COMPROMISES HIS STRATEGIC POSITION

TIME FOR A LITTLE SUR-PRIZE ATT--

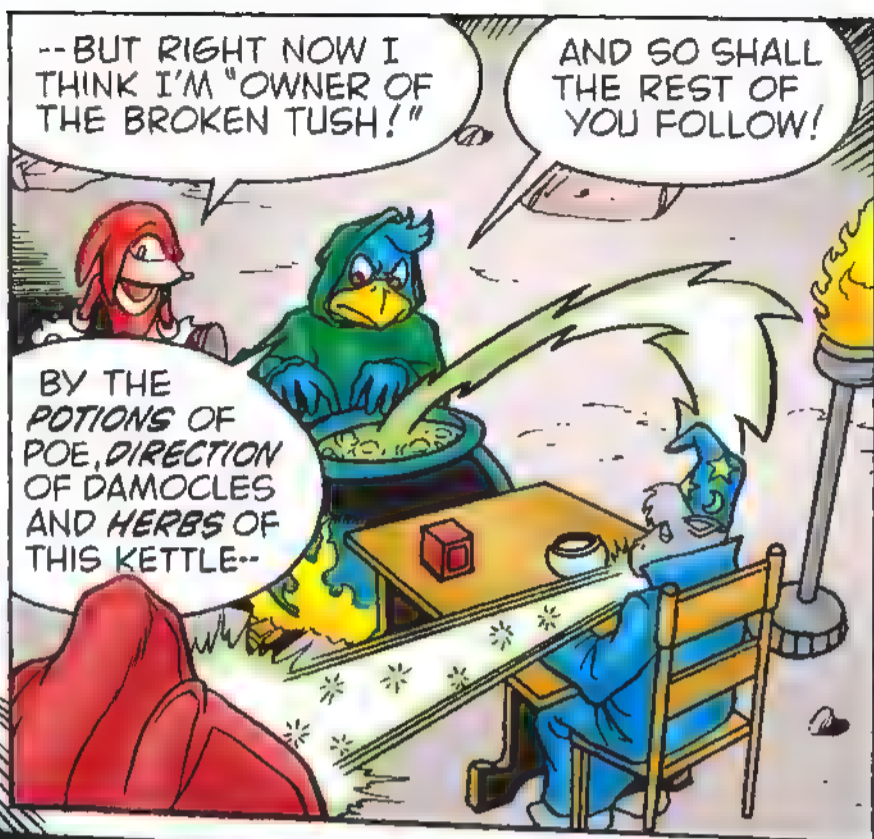
WHOA!



WHAT?! WHO DARES INVAD THE SANCTUM OF MATHIAS POE?

OUCH!
GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND WOULD NORMALLY DO--

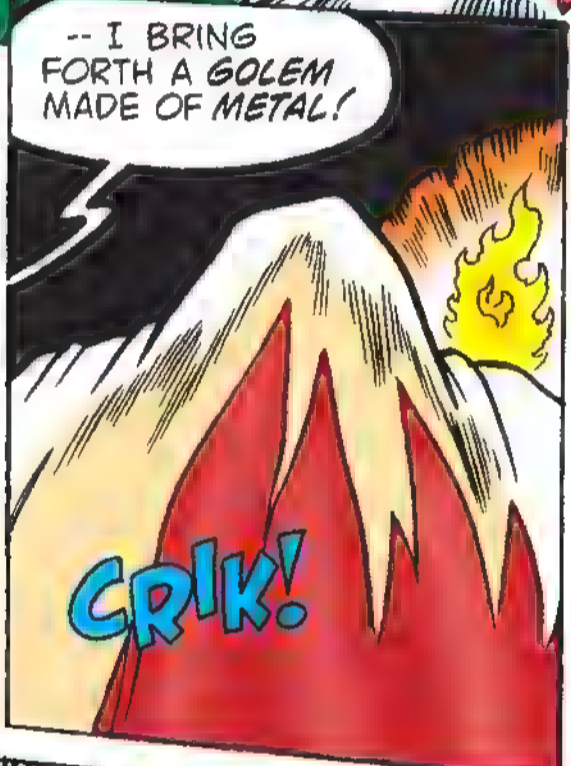
BUMP!



BY THE POTIONS OF POE, DIRECTION OF DAMOCLES AND HERBS OF THIS KETTLE--

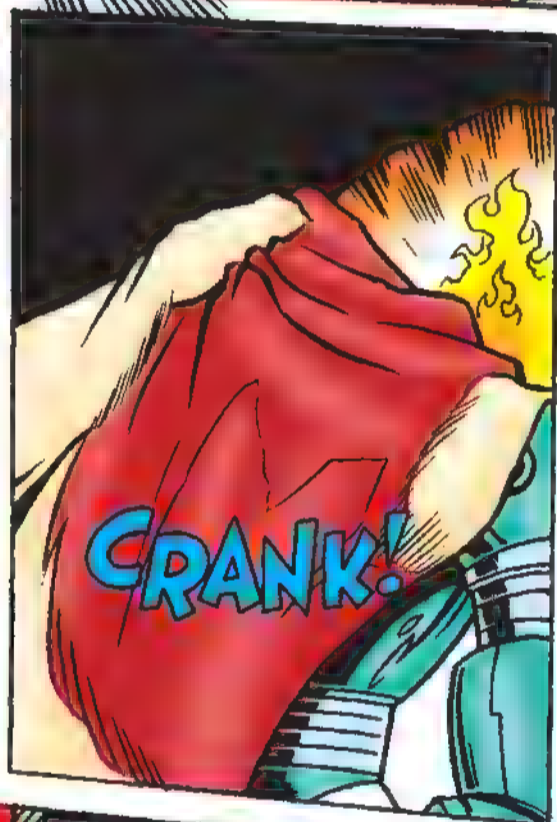
-- BUT RIGHT NOW I THINK I'M "OWNER OF THE BROKEN TUSH!"

AND SO SHALL THE REST OF YOU FOLLOW!



-- I BRING FORTH A GOLEM MADE OF METAL!

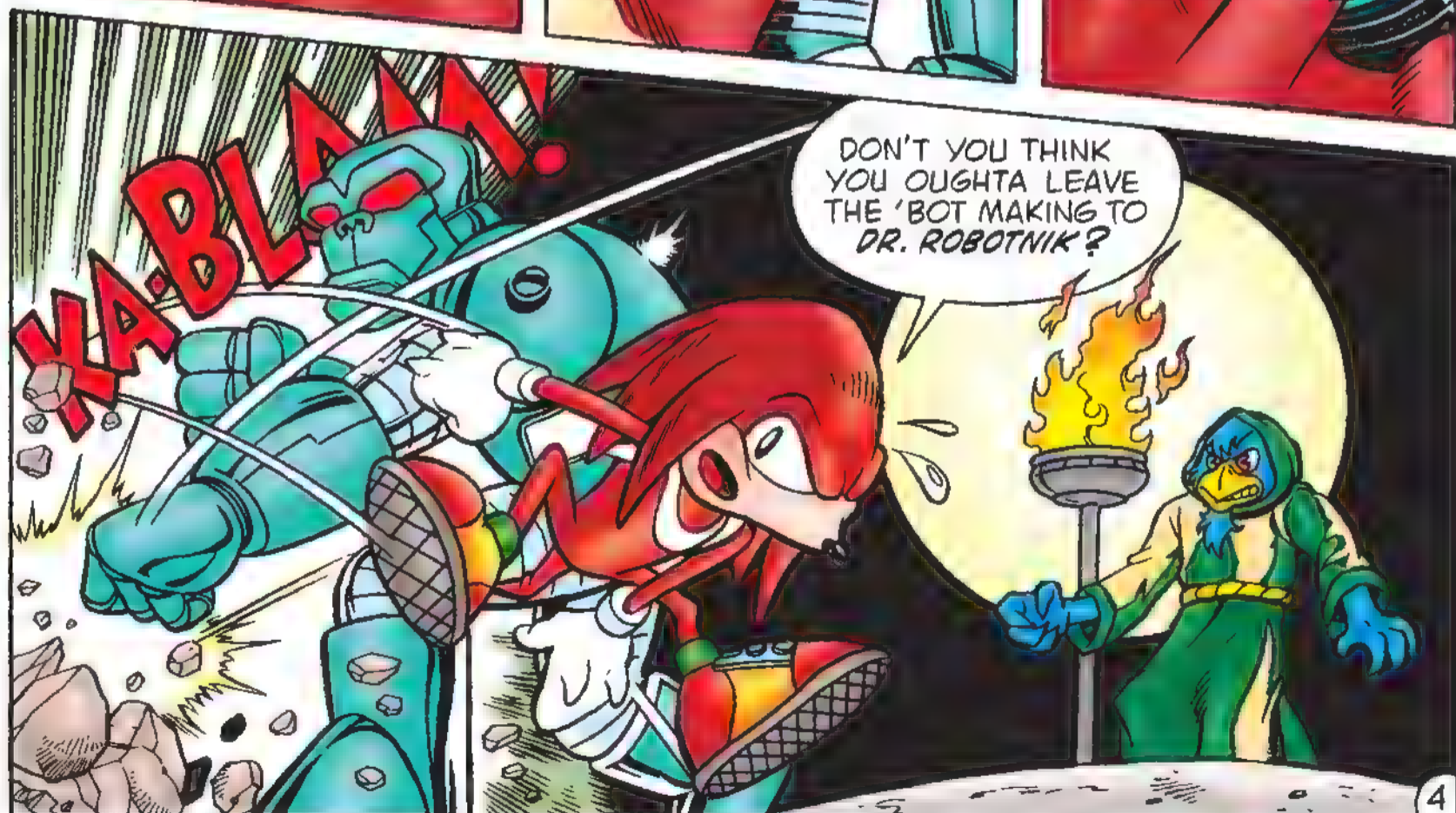
CRICK!



CRANK!

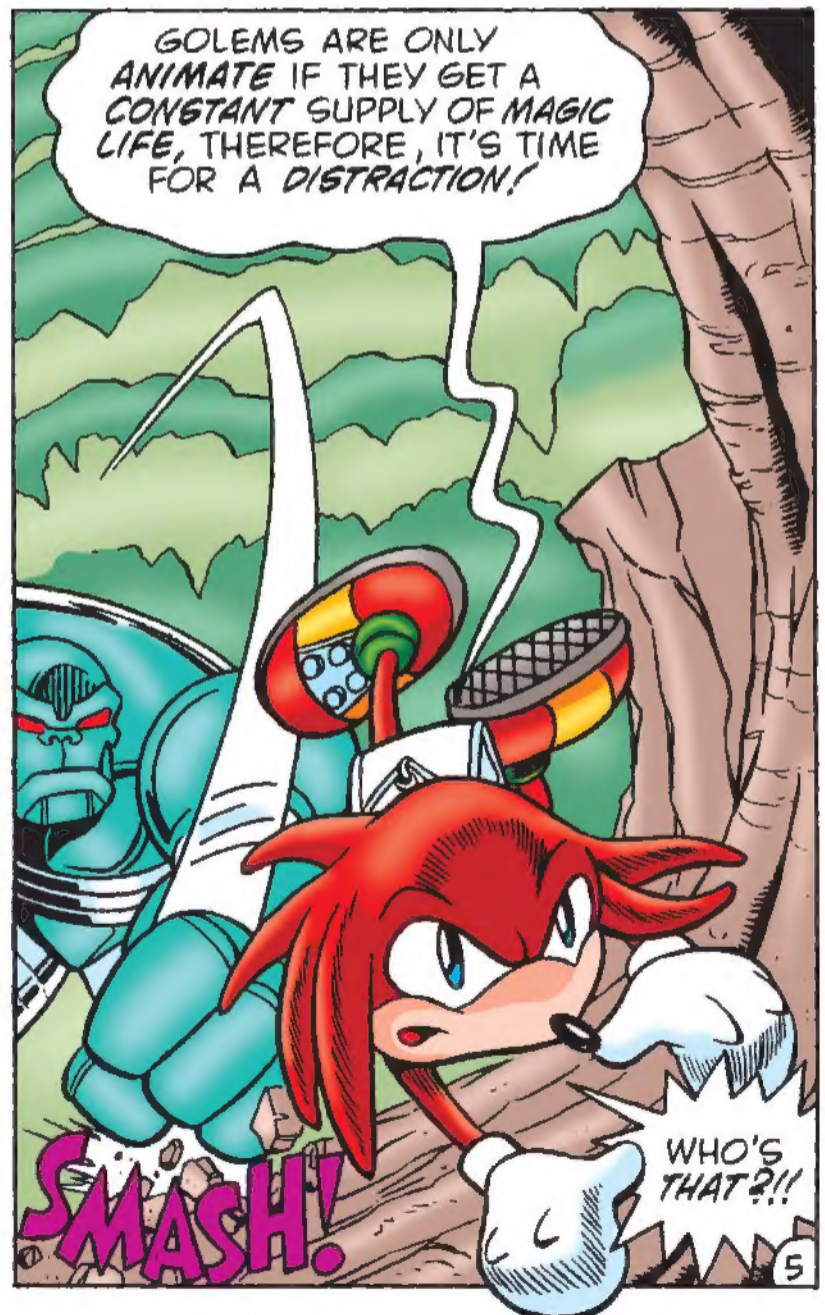
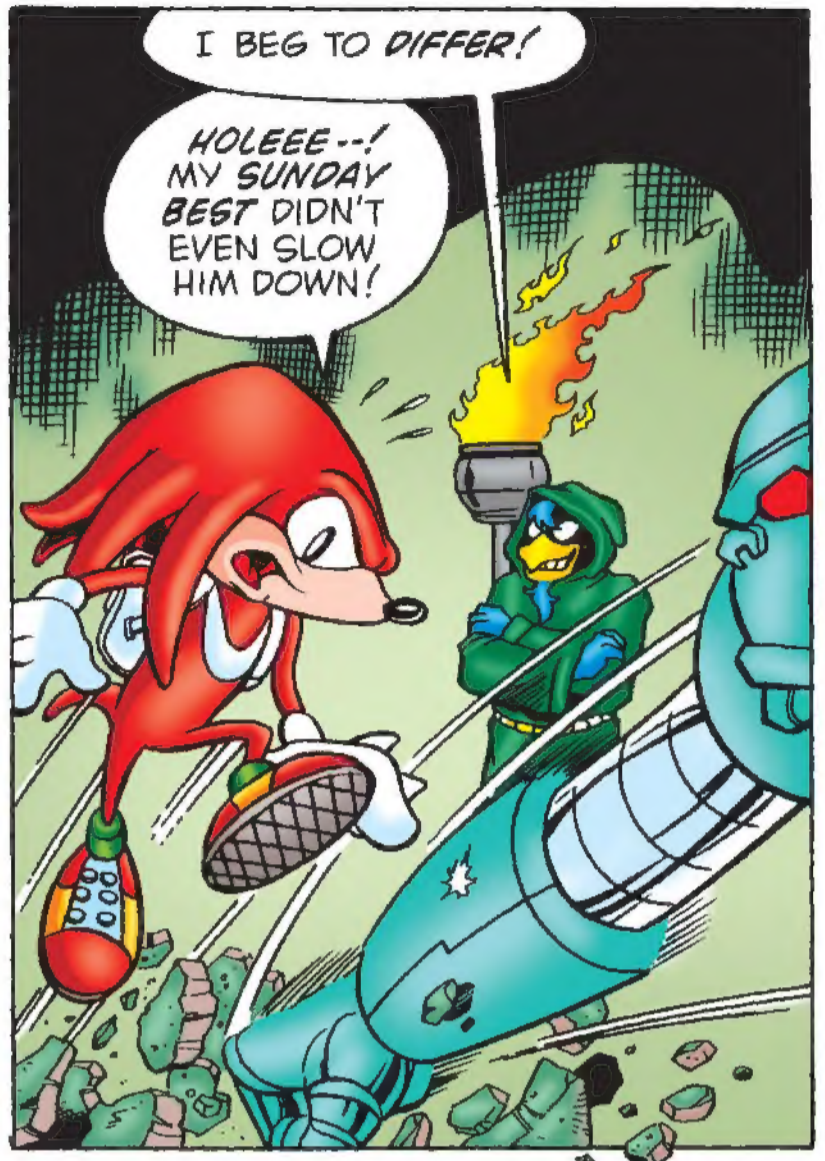


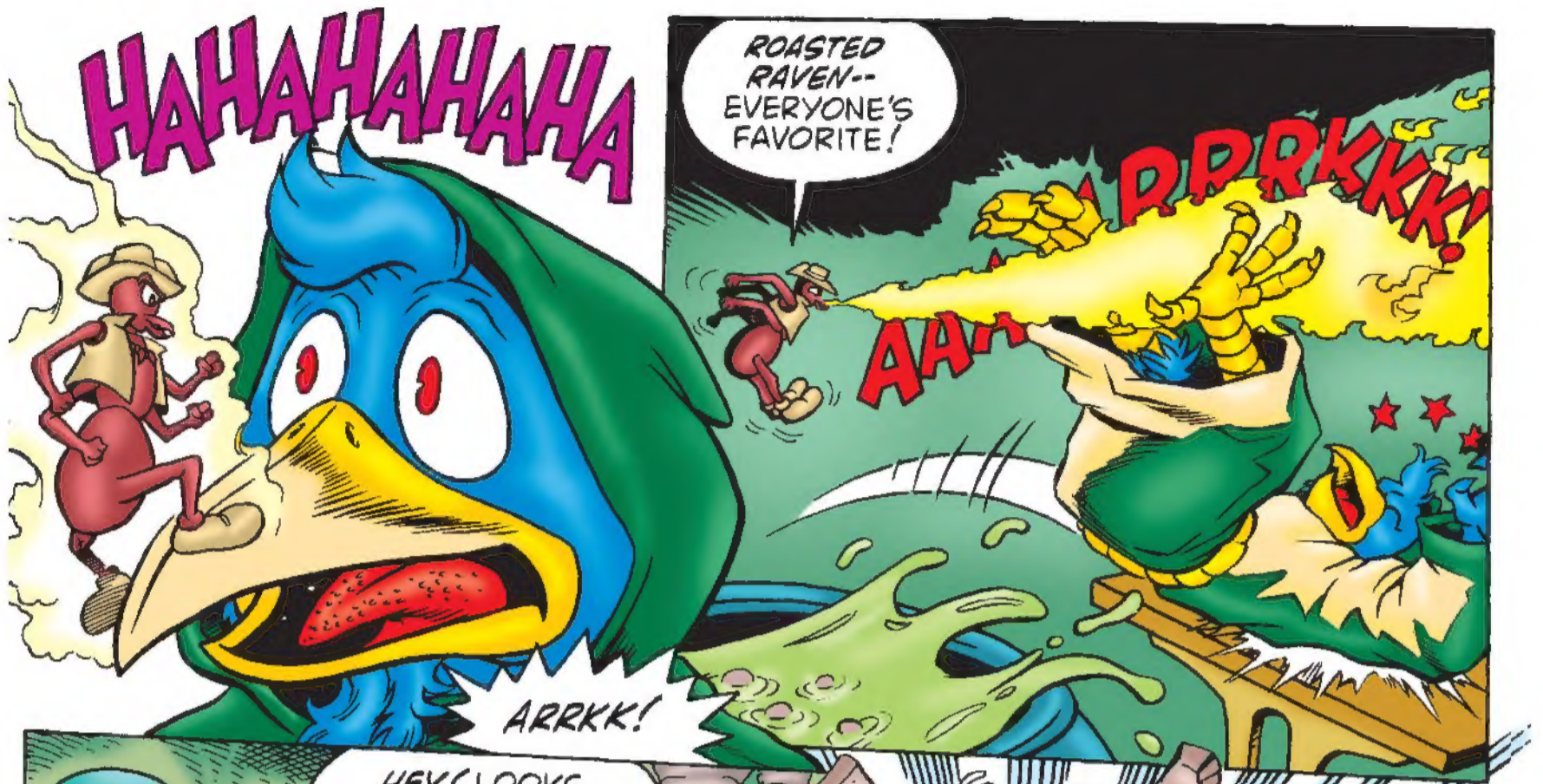
CLOSHK!



DON'T YOU THINK YOU OUGHTA LEAVE THE 'BOT MAKING TO DR. ROBOTNIK?

XIA-BLAN!



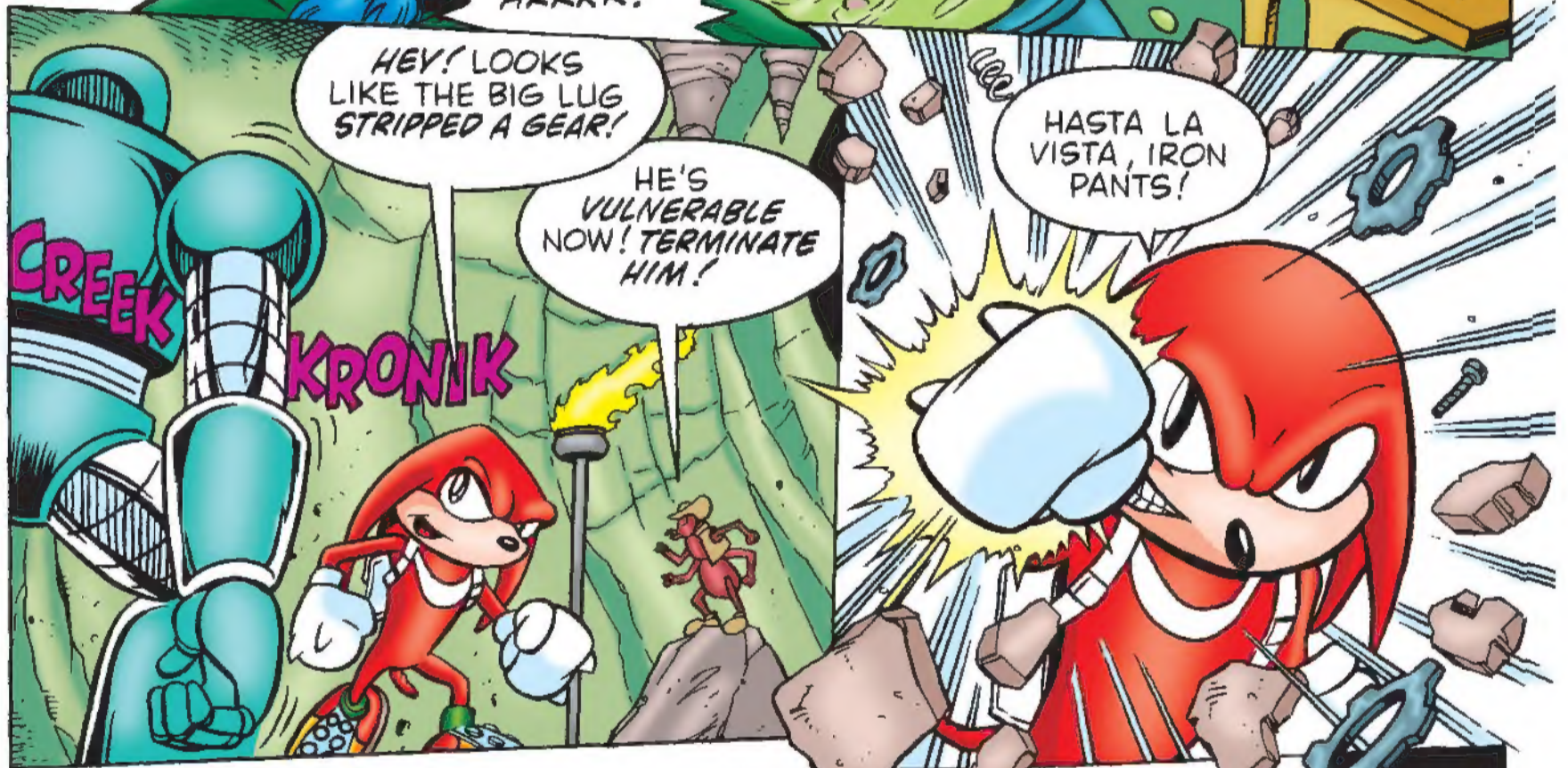


HAHAHAHAHA

ROASTED RAVEN--
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE!

RRRKKK!

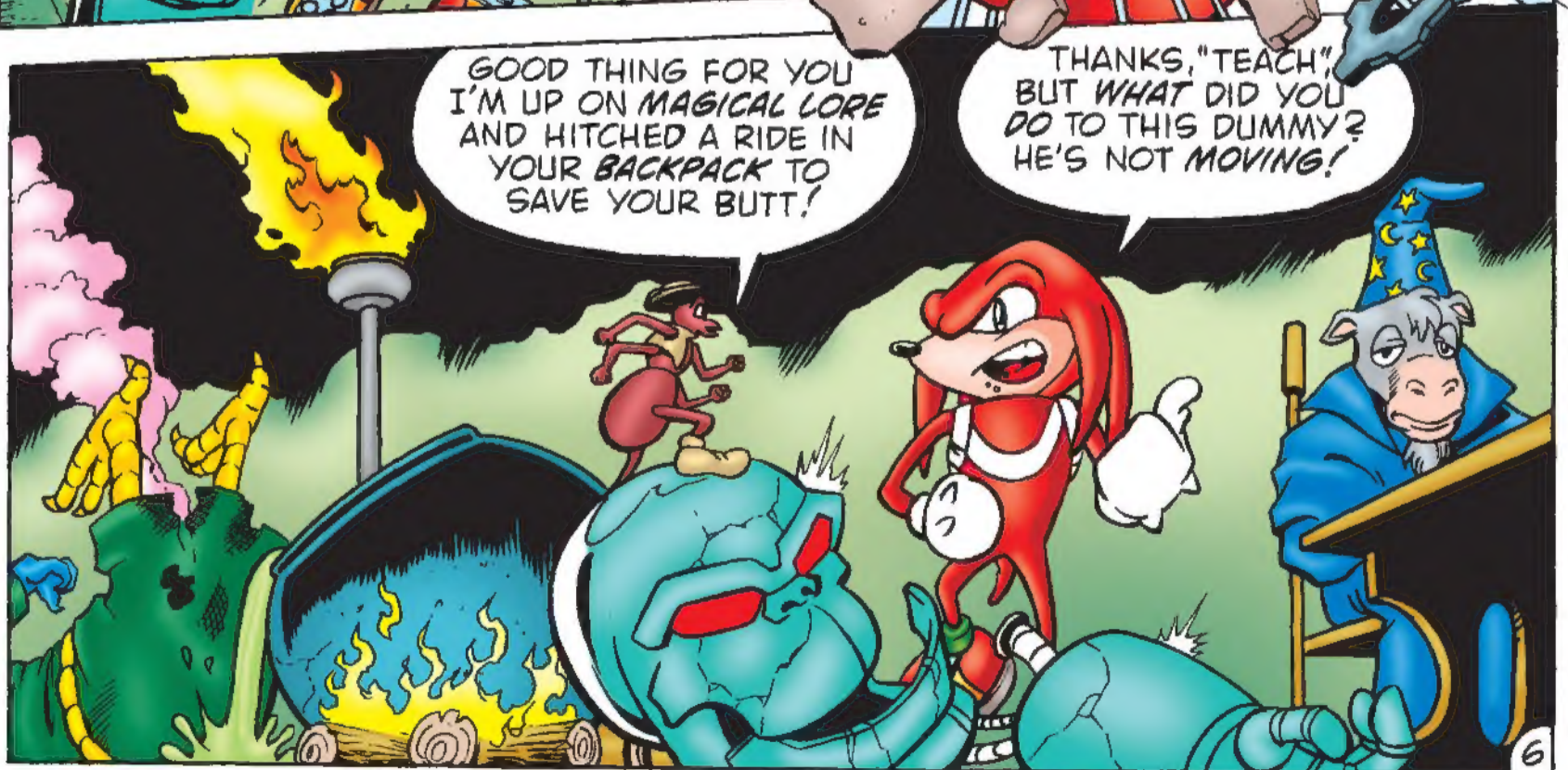
ARRKK!



HEY! LOOKS LIKE THE BIG LUG STRIPPED A GEAR!

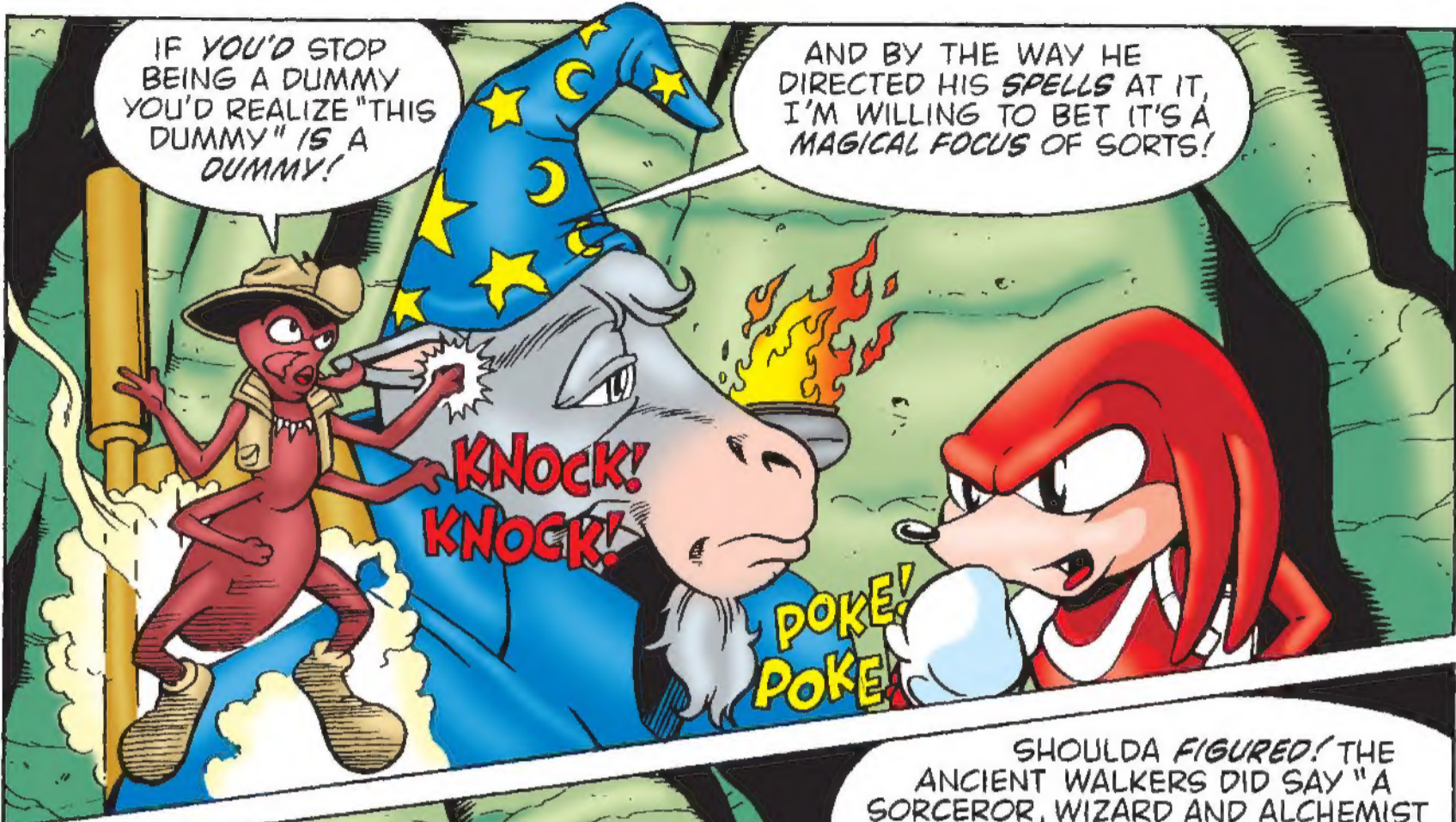
HE'S VULNERABLE NOW! TERMINATE HIM!

HASTA LA VISTA, IRON PANTS!



GOOD THING FOR YOU I'M UP ON MAGICAL LORE AND HITCHED A RIDE IN YOUR BACKPACK TO SAVE YOUR BUTT!

THANKS, "TEACH", BUT WHAT DID YOU DO TO THIS DUMMY? HE'S NOT MOVING!

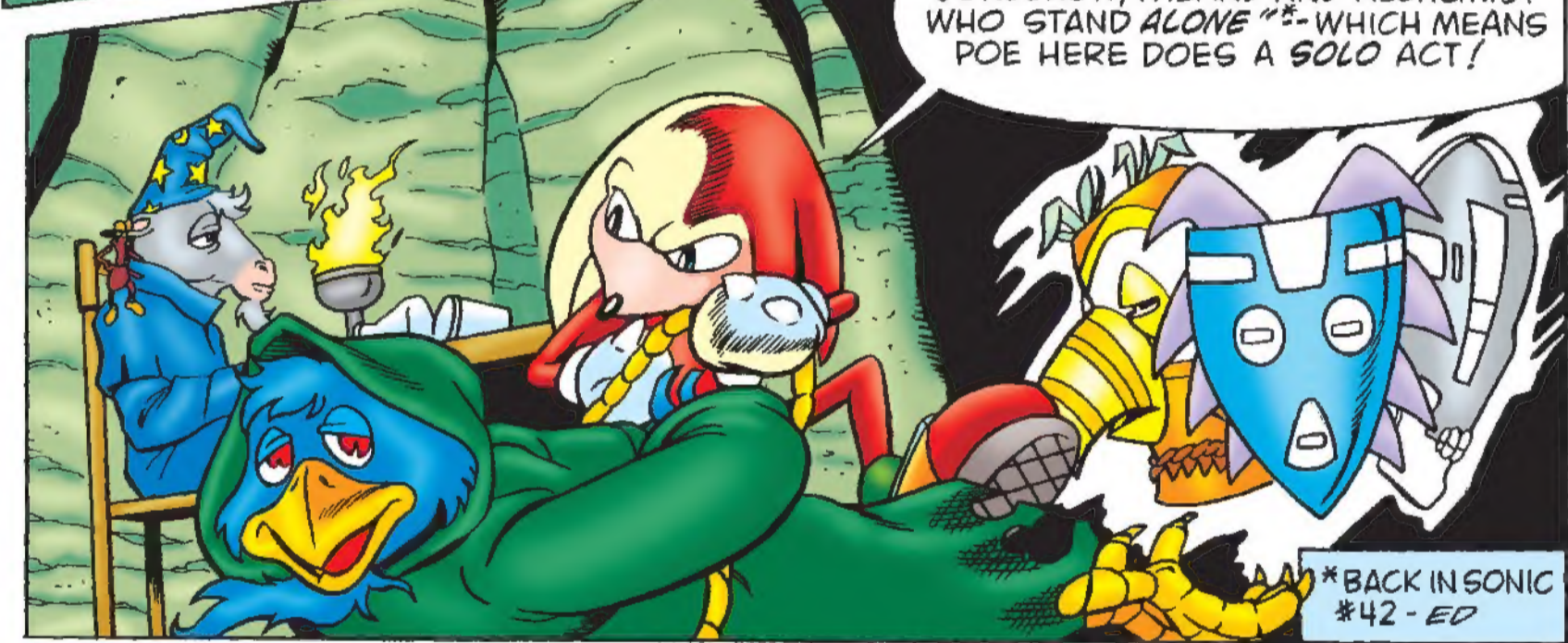


IF YOU'D STOP BEING A DUMMY YOU'D REALIZE "THIS DUMMY" IS A DUMMY!

AND BY THE WAY HE DIRECTED HIS SPELLS AT IT, I'M WILLING TO BET IT'S A MAGICAL FOCUS OF SORTS!

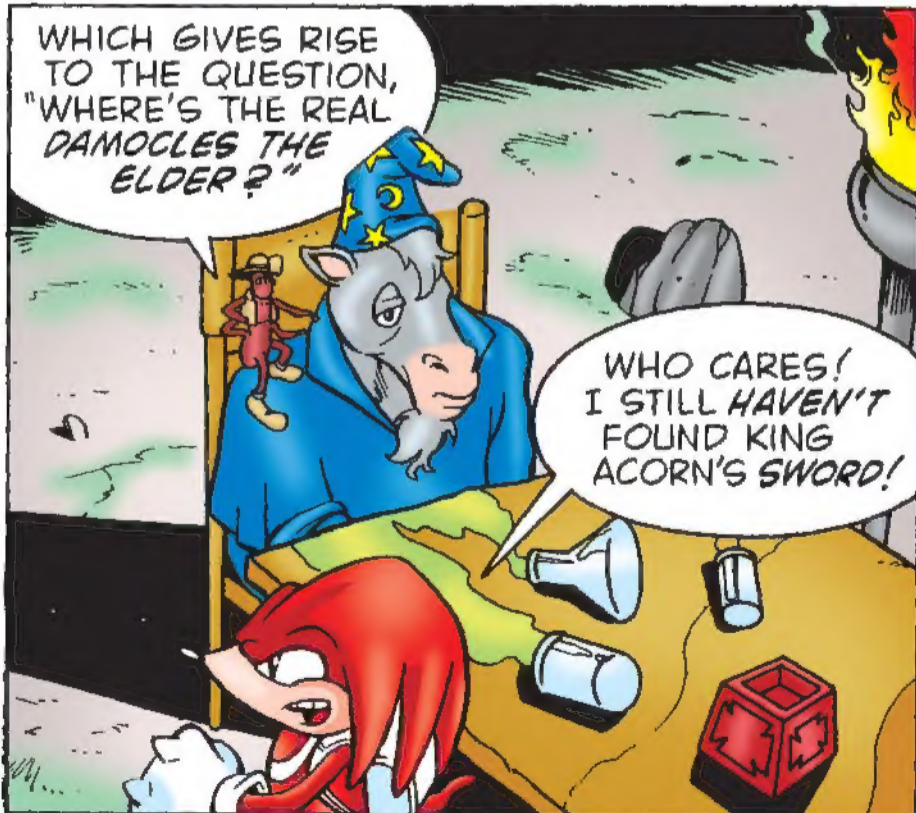
**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**

**POKE!
POKE!**



SHOULDA FIGURED! THE ANCIENT WALKERS DID SAY "A SORCEROR, WIZARD AND ALCHEMIST WHO STAND ALONE" -- WHICH MEANS POE HERE DOES A SOLO ACT!

*BACK IN SONIC #42 - ED



WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE QUESTION, "WHERE'S THE REAL DAMOCLES THE ELDER?"

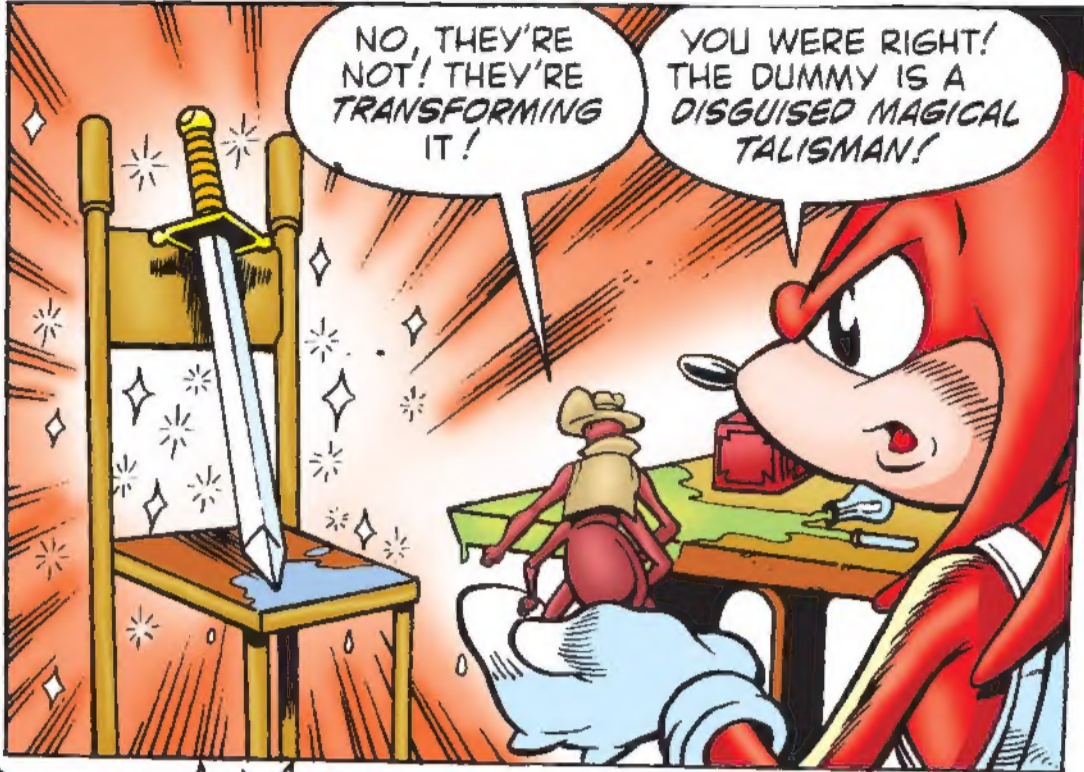
WHO CARES! I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND KING ACORN'S SWORD!



LOOKOUT!

THOSE SPILLED POTIONS ARE EATING AWAY AT THE DUMMY LIKE ACID!

SWISH!
SSSSSSSSSS



NO, THEY'RE NOT! THEY'RE TRANSFORMING IT!

YOU WERE RIGHT! THE DUMMY IS A DISGUISED MAGICAL TALISMAN!

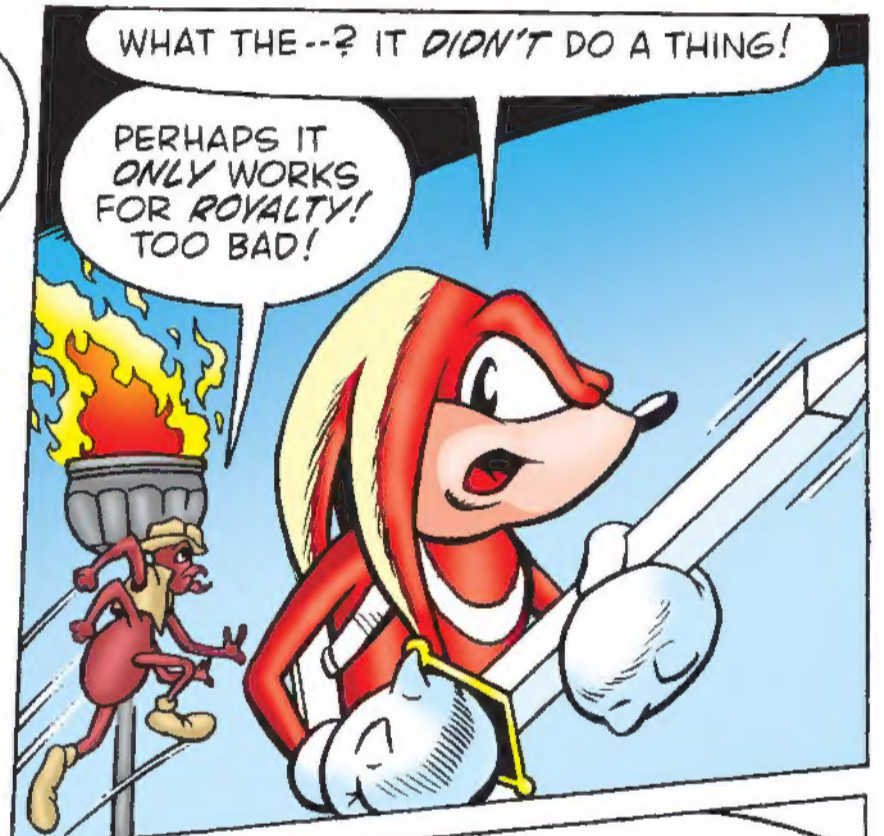


ALL ALONG IT WAS REALLY-- THE SWORD OF ACORNS!



I FINALLY GOT IT!

OKAY, TAKE ME TO THE HALL OF LIMBO! SHOW ME THE CROWN OF ACORNS!



WHAT THE--? IT DIDN'T DO A THING!

PERHAPS IT ONLY WORKS FOR ROYALTY! TOO BAD!



WELL, AT LEAST YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE!

TRUE! MY QUEST IS OVER! ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO RETURN THIS SWORD TO PRINCESS SALLY AND HOPE SHE CAN USE IT TO SAVE THE KING!

WHEN AND WILL THAT HAPPEN? KEEP READING SONIC TO FIND OUT!